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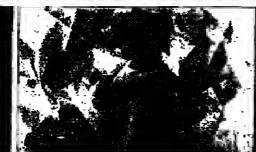
TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 1996

WEATHER: Cloudy and cold

(IR45P) 40p



ESSAY Disney's vision of England PAGE 12



SPORT Sport for art's sake PAGE 19



NEWS Madonnevita: made for the part PAGE 12

Rail firms scoop £500m windfall

Christian Wolman Westminster Correspondent

Companies buying up British Rail are to share a £500m "windfall", as a result of a huge surphis in the British Rail pension fund.

The revelation of the scale of handout to the companies, hich have successfully bid for sections of BR, was not known arithe time of privatisation. List night, it led to calls from MPs and rail campaigners for the surplus to be used to ben-

efit employees and pensioners. That is unlikely: instead, the



pensions "holiday" on their contributions, adding millions of pounds to their profits. But this in turn could provoke a court challenge by unions who think their members would be

The size of the surplus only came to light after an assessment of the value of the £8bin pension fund by the Government Actuary's Department The audit found that since the last assessment three years ago, . the Railways Pension Scheme had a £516m surplus thanks to a successful investment policy which in the past was based on world-class works of art.

Sir George Young, the Secretaist of State for Transport, admitted to his Labour counterpart, Andrew Smith, that the issue of pension sur-pluses is "highly emotive". In a letter to Mr Smith, he said that it was pormal business practice for firms to use surpluses to declare pension contribution bolidays for themselves.

Mr Smith said: "I call on Sir George to give assurances that the pension surplus will be used

rather than line the pockets of

Jonathan Bray, Co-ordinator of Save our Railways, the antirail privatisation campaign, said: "It is outrageous that the Government is prepared to allow pension fund surpluses to be raided in this way. These private companies have put nothing into the BR pension fund and

down into around 60 minifunds for each of the companies which have started operating the now-privatised industry. Rail-

track's share of the pensions bo-nanza will be more than £50m. While bidders der rail fran-chises had been told there might the surplus now presents the new companies with an inexpected bonus. Last night, a spokesman for the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising which handled the bidding process said: "We could not give accurate figures because they were not available until the actuarial assessment had been carried out."

Documents provided to bid-ders stressed that any surpluses could be used for pension contribution holidays. In a let-ter leaked to The Independent, Sir George told the BR pen-sioners' federation: "The issue is simply about getting value for money for businesses, sales and franchises. The information did not imply that the trustees would approve a particular dis-

tribution of surplus." The trustees of the pension fund are being lobbied fiercely by the trade unions representing rail employees not to allow the new companies merely to declare pension contribution holidays for themselves. All but one of the 30 new minifunds set up by 1 April this year, when the actuary carried out the survey, is in surplus. Since then another 30 have been created and most are expected to be in

surplus. While the 300,000 rail pensioners are not in danger of los-ing any of their full enritlement, if companies declare pensions bolidays, it will reduce the potential for extra benefits for ex-

isting employees in later years. Under pension legislation, to enhance benefits for existing to enhance benefits for existing and future pensioners, pension contribution holidays.

CONTENTS

Test-tube blues

The psychological impact of test-tube baby treatments which reduce men to the role of "sperm provider", and position women simply as "baby-making" machines, has been widely underestimated, a specialist Page 3 warned vesterday

Williams on tria

The Formula One team owner Frank Williams is to stand trial in Italy on manslaughter charges over the death of the former world champion Ayrton Senna at the San Marino Grand Prix. Williams is to be charged along with technical director Patrick Head, and the chief de-Signer Adrian Newey. Page 22 Weather

they should get nothing from it."
The scheme is to be broken

be a surplus; no accurate infor-

surpluses above 5 percent of the value of the scheme are liable to beavy rates of tax and therefore cannot be retained. Companies are allowed to use up to

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the privatised companies.

Europe treaty summit waits for Blair European leaders are preparing to delay completion of a treaty to reform the union until after the target date of June, in order to help Tony Blair. They, accept that if the Labour leader is elected next May, he will not have time to sign the Toesay at the Amsterdam

summit in June.

Despite public declarations that the treaty will be signed next June, a Foreign Secretary, fully briefed on delay of four mouths is currently be velopments in the negotiations. ing canvassed among heads of gov-

planned for October in Luxembourg. European leaders are also offering special channels of communication to Labour, ahead of the election, to ensure that Mr Blair is kept informed of

treaty negotiations and is able to condoct talks with his future partners. The Netherlands, which assumes the six-month European Union presidency in January, is proposing to keep Mr Blair, and Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary, fully briefed on de-The moves demonstrate how Eu-

ing on the election of Mr Blair as prime minister, probably next May, and are already preparing to welcome him into their fold. Frustrated by years of sniping by the Conservatives, they are now eagerly awaiting a more positive con-tribution from Labour as they ar-tempt to deepen integration, which John Major has insisted he will block.

Alastair Mariott, a sensational new Ugly Sister in the Royal Ballet's production of Sir Frederick Ashton's Cinderella, which opens in London tonight, adjusts his nose, a wicked copy of the real nose of Sir Robert Helpmann, who famously danced the same role over 20 years ago

Labour has publicly insisted that it would be ready to sign the treaty by the Amsterdam summit and has not formally requested a delay. However, the

would be daunting for an incoming govemment. Furthermore, the party clear-ly does not want to be "ambushed" into

signing away powers without adequate time to consider the implications.

Mr Cook has let it be known that Labour would not be prepared to sign up to a treaty it had not had time fully to examine. He is understood to have hinted, during a recent meeting in Loudon with Jacques Poos, the Luxem-bourg Prime Minister, that it might be wise to make "contingency plans" for task of negotiating complex and far- a delay. Luxembourg, which takes

half of next year, has therefore canvassed other EU countries, and the European Commission, on later dates. A preparatory summit is envisaged for

July, and a final summit for October. Britain's partners have been wary of delay, for fear of setting back the process of enlarging the EU to the east. However, it is not only in Labour's interests to secture a delay. Treaty changes are all subject to a national veto, and the EU needs Britain's co-operation if it is to complete its next reform project. Comment, page 13

Lucky Ernie: from dazed old man to rich adviser

Steve Boggan Chief Reporter

Five years ago, a doctor told the Court of Appeal that Ernest Saunders did not know how to use a door, could not count backwards from three to one and had no idea who was the President of the United States. It was one of several pieces

of evidence that pointed to a form of pre-senile dementia, described as an Alzheimer's-type of disease. The "diagnosis" was one reason why the former chairman of Guinness served. just 10 months in prison for his part in the fraudulent £2.7bn takeover of Distillers 10 years

Today, while a mentally agile Mr Saunders is busy charging £800 a day as a business consultant, the European Court of Human Rights will hand down a judgment which is expected to agree with his claim that the investigation into the affair contravened his human rights.

It will not overturn the conviction for his role in an illegal scheme to boost the price of Guinness shares during the takeover bid. It will most likely agree that the power of Department of Trade and Industry inspectors to require suspects to talk - used against Mr Saunders and threatening him with two years' imprisonment if he refused - infringes a person's right to silence.

And it will provide a platform from which the 61-year-old can launch what could be expensive compensation claim for the Government Yesterday, benefiting from the recovery that has baffled

west London, back at work as usual, advising the Carphone Warehouse, one of his clients, on how to maintain its meteoric rise. It has been named as the fastest-growing company in Britain, and Mr Saunders has been given much of the credit.

It is the sort of success that has allowed him to claw his way out of the abyss and into a comdon, and a £350,000 17th-century house in Sidlesham, near Chichester. Those who know him say his consultancies, which .22 doctors - dementia is irre- also include advising Richbell

Back in business: Ernest Saunders - 1 resent the suggestions' versible - Mr Saunders was in Strategic Holdings, the publishing and information group, more than double the moome he receives from his £74,000 a

Ronson, the property developer, and Tony Parnes, the stockbroker, have also recovered well from hrief periods in prison. Indeed, Mr Ronson, back at the helm of Ronson Infortable home, valued at ternational, recently announced £250,000, in Punney, west Lon- a £100m deal to develop four huge projects in Madrid, Barcelona and London.

Saunders was asked about his ill-

year Guinness pension. His co-conspirators, Gerald

hut, happily, he seems to have In an interview with the Daih Mail during the summer, Mr

what can I do?



dier Premium Elster beat all other English Bitters in its

Treats on board: An aircraft taking off from Liverpool yesterday with 200,000 shoeboxes of gifts collected by Operation Christmas Child for Armenian children Photograph: David Rose

Major fears fatal damage to EU

withdrawal was a delusion. "Those peo-

plo who peddle that delusion are cer-

tainly not considering what the British national interest would be, or what the

implications of leaving the European

Mr Major also told David Wilshire,

the Euro-sceptic Tory MP for

Spelthome, that there was oo question

of discogagement at a time wheo Eu-

rope faced the most vital question on

"Our input into that decision may

Cattle cull is 'political Rise in slaughter fails to

Katherine Butler

The European Agriculture

Commissioner, Franz Fischler,

poured cold water yesterday on

hopes for any immediate easing

of the ban on British beef.

The additional cull, he said,

was one of the pre-conditions in

the Florence agreement last

June which Britain signed up

to. That framework committed

the Government to imple-

menting a sweeping BSE eradication programme in return for

a phased lifting of the embar-

go. "I think we need to move for-

ward step by step as agreed," Mr Fischler said.

have a material impact upon whether

Union would be," bo said.

the single currency.

But the calculated hint of possible if the criteria are wrong," he said. "And

of the crisis. The total cost of the

BSE, has cost over £2bn.

cull of all cattle aged over 30

mooths, which may cootain

A 19-year-old woman from

Carlisle, Cumbria, was con-

firmed yesterday as the latest

victim of the "new variant" of

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

(CJD), thought to be caused by

exposure to BSE-infected meat

products. Victoria Lowther died

four months after first showing

signs of the new strain of CJD.

According to the Department

of Health, there have been 14

confirmed cases in the UK-10

occurring this year.

the whole prospect goes

Like the Afghan capital of Kabul, the Prime Minister has been fought over for several years now, changing hands several times as the fortunes of war have ebbed and flowed. Even on a quiet day the observer can hear the loud crump of an occasional rocket landing in one of his suburbs, as the warring factions fight for control.

Over the past 12 months advantage seemed to lie with the Euro-sceptical Taliban. Wherever these zealots take control. French language tapes and teach-yourself German videos are unravelled and left festooning the lampposts; traitors such

as Douglas Hurd are seized

from their sanctuaries in the

Midland Bank and strung up

as a warning; and the satanic designs of the foreign infidels

Anthony Bevins and Fran Abrams

John Major warned the Commons yes-

terday that it could inflict "fatal" dam-

age on the European Union, and British

membership, if the wrong decisions were

taken oo the single currency.
Walking a political tightrope between the Europhiles and Euro-scep-

tics within his own party - in advance

of a parliamentary statement on BSE,

and a debate oo European fisheries

policy - the Prime Minister struck a

oote of menace in a statement on the

June's Amsterdam summit - after

weekeod EU summit in Dublin.

Chief Political Correspondent

There was still no early lifting

ports in sight last night in spite

of the Government's U-turn to

introduce a selective cull of

more than 100,000 cattle, cost-

Douglas Hogg, the Minister

of State for Agriculture, told MPs the additional cull was or-

dered by the Cabinet as a po-

litical gesture to persuade

Britain's European partners to

allow lifting the ban, but no

timetable for lifting the han has

*BSE will die oot from the

ing £150m.

of the ban oo British beef ex-



enough

EU was approaching some "historic decisions" over the next 18 months.

Those decisions extended beyond the

single currency to the questions of po-

litical development being considered

by the inter-governmental confer-

ence. "The choices made will deter-

mine not only the success and stability of Europe as a whole, but Britain's re-lationship with it," Mr Major said.

Shadow Foreign Secretary Robin ook last night challenged Mr Major clarify that hint, after Downing

reet sources were alleged to have

hriefed newspapers that he was trying

"to put Britain's withdrawal from the

the next election - Mr Major said the retrenchment, if not withdrawal, was if it goes ahead in the wrong circum-

national herd around 2001 nat- accused John Major of "serial

urally. The cull will not reinforce incompetence" over his bandling

the threats faced at Europeao Union on to the agenda".

gesture' to shift ban

mimal safety. The justification

for the cull is that unless we car-

ry out the cull, we are oot go-

of the ban. That is a political fact

and not a scientific fact," he said. Mr Hogg will submit plans to

Europeao agriculture minis-ters today for a certified herd

scheme as the first step to re-

laxing the ban. As a second, con-fidence building measure, the

selective cull of animals judged most at risk from BSE will be-

gin in January, but tracing the

cattle could delay completion

Tony Blair, the Labour leader,

for six months.

ing to get progress on the lifting

are cursed in public places by religious leaders. Earlier this year it looked as though this faction would soon be in firm control of the battered Mr Major. Its mujahedin were encamped upon his ruined approaches, gaining a triumph over a referendum. The tattered, demoralised forces of the establishment were put to headlong flight, and complete victory was not far off. From heing a small band of religious extremists polishing their antique weapons, the Tory Taliban were close to being the government of a leading European nation.

And then - suddenly - the

forces of reason made a stand.

A stocky general with florid

face and capacious arsenal

enough. Ken Clarke and his

decided that enough was

Within days Major seemed to be mostly in their hands, refusing Taliban demands to rule out a single currency. Yesterday's skirmishes showed that a temporary stalemate had been reached, and was likely to last over the traditional Festival of Christmas. For, as the Prime Minister answered questions about the Dublin summit, both sides contented themselves with walking

destruction as their

fundameotalist opponents.

around in front of him, parading their weapons. Look at my rocket propelled grenades," one side would say. "And my Scuds," the other would echo. The only unequivocal support that Major could rely on was that

of the veteran tribal matriarch Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman, who would encourage him by loudly shouting "hear, hear", down the tube of her bazooka.

flamboyant mujahedin sallied up to the PM's ramparts and fired off a shot. Norman Lamoot asked what example existed "in history of a single currency that did not lead to a single government?" We were indeed in uncharted waters, Mr Major replied. The multi of Wokingham, John Redwood, wanted to know what benefit Britain had got for all the little things (vetoes and stuff) that it had given up

One or two of the more

to the Great European Satan There were even some rumbles from the more pacific villages on the plains. David Wilshire (Spelthorne)

said that his kinfolk liked the Common Market but oot the single currency. If they got the latter, then they might revolt against the former.

There was time for one more Taliban tactic infiltration. Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Homcastle) came through the gates smuggling a bomb under his turban. If some other countries fudged the entry criteria might the PM declare gainst the whole enterprise in the early summer ?? The early summer? Like, er, 1 May for example?

Answer came there oone and Mr Leigh and compatriots retired to their winter headquarters, to prepare for their spring offensive - an offensive to conquer a land that is now hardly worth governing.

to ward off a threatened Commons de-

feat. Mr Baldry said he would press for

changes to curb quota-hopping - in which foreign firms buy up British fish-

ing quotas—at a meeting of European ministers later this week.

He also promised to review the Gov-

ernment's approach to European rules

which favour fishermen in the Irish Re-

public at the expense of those in the

Unionists, on whose support the Gov-

Commoo Fisheries Policy is not work-

ing as it was intended," Mr Baldry said.

emment's majority now depends.

North. The system has angered Ulster

"I don't think there is any dis-

age of 30 months have been

for meeting the EU conditions

on BSE-free herds will not go

to Brussels until the new year

It will then have to be evaluat-

ed by two expert veterinary committees before the com-

mission can decide whether or

not to allow exports of meat

from these special grass-fed

berds, a bureaucratic procedure

which could take several weeks at least. Member states are in

any case expected to react cau-

tiously with the Germans likely

to argue that BSE must be fully

eradicated in Britain before

any lifting of the trade ban.

However, Britain's blueprint

.slaughtered.

significant shorts

Crumbling. classrooms to stay

Local authorities have been told they can borrow only a fifth of what they say is needed next year to repair and rebuild crumbling school buildings.

Government figures out esterday reveal councils will be allowed to borrow up to £422m for schools buildings, projects - £46m less than last year. By contrast, capital allocations for voluntaryaided and for grantmaintained schools, both outside local authority control, have risen compared

with this year.

Education minister Cheryl Gillan said the total available to schools amounted to almost £700m. But Labour said the allocation was not enough to tackle a crisis in the condition of school buildings.
Lucy Ward

Fiennes admits

polar defeat Sir Ranulph Fiennes last night announced he was giving up his Antarctic expedition. The explorer had been hoping to return to continue his bid to become the first man to walk solo across the Antarctic after being forced to seek hospital treatment in Chile for painful

Last night he said: "This was an enormously vital dream to me," ho said. "To have something like this happen on an expedition which is looking like an overwhelming success is a kick in the teeth."

GP jailed for sex assault

stolen vehicles close to

border.

Roslea on the Co Fermanagh

offence against a woman patient has been jailed for Christopher Kumar admitted indecently assaulting the woman in 1993.

A pregnant woman was rescued from freezing water last night after apparently jumping from the Humber suspension bridge. The

Palestinians jailed for Israel embassy blasts

Two Palestinian terrorists who carried out a bombing campaign against Jewish targets in London were each jailed for 20 years at the Old

Bailey yesterday. Samar Alami and Jawad Botmeli were part of a terrorist cell which was put in place to sabotage the Middle East peace process with two massive car bombs which rocked the Israeli embassy and a Jewish charity in Juli

Both had used their student status in the United Kingdom as a cover for their terrorist activities

Millennium Tower setback

Plans for an quarter-milehigh Millennium Tower for the City of London have received a serious setback with the Royal Fine Art Commission declining the support the idea.

The 1,265ft skyscraper

which if built would dwarf the Canary Wharf tower and be visible for 20 miles around - was described by tho Commission as "simply out of" scale" and therefore believed the project should not go ahead, chairman Lord St John of Fawsley said.

Smoking stars win award

Comedian Jo Brand and Men Behaving Badly star Martin Clunes were singled out as defiant smokers in the awards of pro-tobacco group Forest yesterday.
Clunes won Forest's

approval by asking if he co smoke during a recording of BBC2 oews quiz Have I Got News For You? Brand was hailed "the most smoker" friendly televisioo star" by Forest "for sticking steadfastly to her right to

101 reasons for Disney to cheer

Disney's 101 Dalmatians broke seasonal British box office records in its first weekend, distributors said last night.

The live-action remake of. Disney's animation classic took £2.4m in three days, the biggest December opening in British cinema history. Glenn Close as the wicked Cruella de Vil, and 280 spotty dogs, also broke box office records in the United

Vote for strike

Coal miners have voted for a series of ooe day strikes in the New Year over pay and conciliation procedures, the National Union of Mineworkers announced vesterday.

kidney stones.

Explosives find in Ulster

Army bomb disposal experts vesterday recovered an amount of explosives from a vehicle which was abandoned close to the Northern Ireland border with the Irish Republic 10 days ago. The material, together with a number of booster tubes, was contained in one of two

A doctor who admitted a sex

Woman alive after river fall

woman, who has not been named, lost her baby.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

States.

Austria Sch40 Names PS 00 Belgium BRISO kely LA.500 Air mail, 13 weeks: Europe £110.78; Zone 1,046 Canacies ... Po300 Medela ... Esc325 East, Averica, Africa and bode) £184.08; Zipo 2 ffor Cypnus ..., C£1.20 Media ... 43 cents East and Austriana) £205.70. To color, pipes and A5p Portugal Exc325 Listo 49 Millionbur, London EIA 9TR or to France Fr1.4 Spain Ptr300 538 8268. Orallt cards welcome. Germany ... DM4.5 Sweden. ... Skr21 BACK BISUIS Greece Drif 50 Setzerland . Str4.00 Buck names of the indomination are not

LEGETHOUSE .. LFSO USA \$3.00 Henric Measurers, relections 01988 840370.

Budget problem. Finance solution.

later clarified by Mr Major, who told stances, I think the damage to our culture minister Tony Baldry promised. Salisbury Tory MP Robert Key that membership of the European Union a tough stance on Europe in an attempt

and the European Unioo itself might well be fatal."

Mr Major also returned to the attack against Tony Blair, who is being por-

trayed by the Tories as someone who

would sell out British interests. The

Labour leader baited Mr Major as a

Prime Minister who was afraid of stag-

ing a Commons vote on the single cur-

reocy, and as the leader of a

government that had incompetently

handled the BSE crisis. But the Prime

Minister said of Mr Blair. "If he follows

the policies he has advocated so far, the

Opening the fisheries debate, agri-

bring end to embargo

The commission was still

waiting for Britain to submit its

proposals for securing the re-

moval of the han on beef from

herds certified BSE-free. This

is the first phase of a return to

normal trade envisaged under

the Florence deal.
The Agriculture Minister,

Douglas Hogg, will tell Euro-

pean counterparts in Brussels

today that Britain has now met

the five Florence pre-condi-

tions: it has set up a comput-

erised cattic tracing system and brought in cattle "pass-ports", while the possession of

contaminated cattle feed has

been criminalised and more

than a million cattle over the

auction of British sovereignty."



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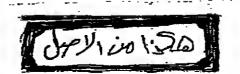
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news

Blonde ambition: A life and times

Stated ambition: "I won't be hap-

py until I'm as famous as God." Bom Madonna Louise Veronica

Ciccone 16 August 1958 in Rochester, Michigan. Won dance scholarship to Michigan Univer-

sity but dropped out and went to New York at the age of 20 to

Struggled until 1983, when her first album, *Madonna*, sold three million copies. In 1985 ap-

peared at Live Aid. Her second album, Like A Virgin, combined

with a studiously vampish and feisty streetwise image, Intensi-

Her song "Material Girl" (1985) combined a lavish video with Marilyn Monroe iconography, ex-

citing dance production and assertive materialism at the right moment in the eightles. It rapidly

became a role model for many

Two films, Vision Quest and Desperately Seeking Susan, were followed by international hits such as "Like a Prayer" and

"Vogue", exploring diverse interests such as Catholicism, fash-

ion and eroticism. Her fashion

exploration included appearing on stage in Gaultier-designed

In August 1985 married actor

Sean Penn, but later divorced.

in 1992 she took a step too far,

After flaunting publicity-achiev-ing relationships with other women, her misconceived cof-

fee-table book SEX featured soft-

pom photos and her album Erot-

ica did badly, as her following

began to have second thoughts

Her career flagging, she begged for and won the role of Evita.

Daughter Lourdes Maria Ciccone

She became pregnant by her personal trainer, Carlos Leon,

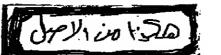
during filming.

Leon born in October.

cone-shaped metal bras.

make records.

young women.



Don't cry for me, I'm Madonnevita

The story of a hustler who uses people and the media to get to the top is really the story of the actress

David Lister

Wheo Madonna brings her idiosyncratic style to London on Thursday for the United Kingdom premiere of Evita, her persona and the hype surrounding it will have an uncanny resonance of the Rainbow Tour which Eva Peron herself made of European capitals in the Forties.

Madonna will even look the part. Unlike most actresses, she will not wish to distance herself from her role on screen. For the Los Angeles miere at the weekend she ensured that Forties costume and facial make-up made her look like the former first lady of Argentina.

In the new film of the Tim Rice/Andrew Lloyd Webber musical Madonna makes a memorable Eva Peron. The performance may lack emotion, or the power to move. But this is more than compensated for by the panache, worldly-wise cyni-cism - and by the curious sensation for the audience at yesterday's national press screening that the story of a determined hustler who will use both people and the world's media to get to the top, is the story of the actress, as well as that of the woman she is playing.

Madonna even used the old fashioned method of writing the British director Alan Parker a begging letter to get the part. Nor did she let a small inconvenience, such as becoming pregnant during shooting, pot her off. This was the part that

she was born to play.

Parker himself says; "She is Chiraordinarily accomplished and has giveo everything to make this film. I find it hard now to even cooceive of anybody playing the part as well as she has dooe it.'

Nor could be have conceived that Madonna



In vogue: The changing image of Madonna from the Material Girl to the First Lady of Argentina, beside the real Evita (bottom right) Photomontage; Joe Jenkins/Montage

But she did, just as she stepped in after a year of difficulties to persuade the Argentinian President, Carlos Menent, to allow her to sing Don't Cry For Me Argentina on the presidential balcony. She secured a private aodience with him.

As the two of them were eating pizza and making small talk, giant flower at the waist, feathers and

the most successful female record- suddenly interjected, New York flowers above, spike heeled shoes Thursday. She has decided to wear ing artist in the world would take singing lessons in order to ensure that here. Do we have the balcony or she could manage the Lloyd Webber don't we?" President Menent nod-score.

The Los Angeles premiere saw a typical Madonna performance. Alfriend, Susan Becker, who is un-known in the fashion world, and who gave her a garish and universally loathed tacky red velvet suit with a

ties look, all beneath a towering red hat fringed by a black veil.

Dior, would not have approved. As always with Madonna, the though she can have the pick of any doubt lingers as to whether this was designer in the world, she chose a a disastrously inept choice or a caldoubt lingers as to whether this was culated move to get onto the world's front pages through sheer aodacity - and give a girlfriend a hand up at the same time.

She will be in safer hands in

which were out of period for the For- a Gianni Versace creation. The designer has promised to make a pastiche of the outfit that Dior actually made for the real Evita. He has offered Madenna a choice of outfits. including a tiger-print frock coat, a sleek, golden silk dress, a grey sheath gown and a pink frock with detach-

> She will also be wearing a Versace outfit the following night for the Italian premiere in Rome - the frock coat with embroidered collar. She can afford to flaunt. The ear- lieved that playing the part of Eva It was like surviving a war."

able train.

ly reviews of her performance in the £39m film are good. Variety said: "Madonna gives her all to the title role and pulls it off superbly."

The critic, like many of us who have seen the film, also thought that it was "an objet d'art that evokes serious viewer admiration more than passionate excitement"

Another critic said of the star: "This is ber role: a Material Girl desperately seeking sainthood." In an interview with USA Weekend magazine, Madonna said she be-

Peron had been her destiny, "It was something that only I could do."

She said she became engrossed in the character while making the film, and described the process as allconsuming

"I had to learn how to tango and study that for several months, and then the physical transformation, defining her physicality with hair styles and brown cootacts and false

Madonna added: "No one else could have done it. And I survived

Impact of embryo science examined



Liz Hunt on a symposium tackling dilemma of fertility treatment

treatments which reduce men to the role of "sperm provider", and position women simply as "baby-making" machines, has been widely underestimated by doctors, a leading fertility spemas faced by all developed doctors, a leading fertility spe-

collegist, described the paradox in which scientists had "mastered the creation of man by man" but with de-humanising consequences largely ignored specific to the average and moral aspects. Where legislation has been introduced, its failings and inflexibility have been cruelly exposed, as in the case of Diane Riood, the average denied the

"The 1960s witnessed the advent of sexuality without procreation; the 1980s heralded procreation without sexuality," he said on the opening day of a European symposium which will attempt to resolve some of the medical, legal, and ethical questions raised by modern fertility treatments.

The eveots of last summer in the UK, which saw an impassioned debate over the dispos-

cialist warned yesterday.

Professor Israel Nisand, a
French obstetrician and gynaeattempts to deal with the legal

Blood, the woman denied the right to use her dead husband's sperm to have a child despite widespread support of doctors and the public.

Speaking about the psychological repercussions of fertility treatment, Professor Nisand. a lecturer at the Université Paris V, said eroticism had been separated from parenthood, and instead the "intimate and

Strasbourg — The psychologial of "orphaned" embryos; the operation for highly specialised decision by a woman to abort medical procedures... physical intimacy, normally experienced in a spontaneous manner gives way to the alienating experience of a mechanical body.

Post-coital tests, masturbation in hospital, a thermometer on the bedside table and temperature curves, the trappings of fertility treatment, are all threats to a couple's wellbeing. Studies show that despite

being given precise information on success rates, couples per-sistently over-estimate their chances of a baby - putting it at a 60-90 per cent success rate compared with the average of about 14 per cent. Professor Nisandwarned that

"while there are children in the world who are not wanted, there are also children who are wanted too much". He urged doctors to avoid

"technical totalitarianism" and treat couples as individuals, tions [had] become the field of refuse treatment if oecessary." cussion by ministers.

Wendy, the situation was no easier. "At the us. I didn't enjoy any of it."

Meropi Michaleli, a psy-chologist from Athens, told the 400 delegates attending the conference that rapid advances in reproductive medicine since the birth of the first test tube baby, Louise Brown, in 1978, had reduced infertility to simply a disorder of the reproductive apparatus.
She welcomed the fact that

a psychologist had been asked to present the first paper at the symposium, organised by the Council of Europe. "I believe that treating steril-

ity first means treating the psy-chological suffering of sterility, and that the child—whether natural or adopted - can only come afterwards, " she said. The Third Council of Europe

Bioethics Symposium will determine the contents of a protocol for the protection of the human embryo to be included in the draft convention on human rights and biomediprivate sphere of sexual rela- having the courage to defer or cine which is now under dis-

6 I was simply a sperm provider?

Glenda Cooper

ment is one that John and Wendy (not their not see infertility as a true problem. real names] have done their best to blank oot of their minds. They underwent IVF treatment for a to-

tal of six years, but Wendy failed to conceive and in the end they adopted instead. John, in particular, looks back with a shudder at a process that was "so unpleasant I have tried to wipe my memory of it." He said: "IVF is never going to be much fun, and I think we knew that, but

it takes years and it does get you down."
They both found the procedure de-humanising and far-removed from the joy most couples go through in expecting a baby. Instead, they felt they were treated

The experience of in vitro fertilisation treat- in an offhand way by medical staff who did

John felt he was relegated to a sperm provider, expected to come up with the goods whatever the situation. "You had to ge down a corridor and masturbate in the toilet," he said. "You could hear the cleaners talking outside while you were in there. There were no facilities - It was, like, here's a jar ... '"

"It was awful. You've got to produce a
sperm sample that is the best you can do,

and I don't know how you were meant to provide this in these circumstances." John felt he was perceived as no more than "a support role for my wife". For treated us. He made a lot of money out of

time, there wasn't very much money in the NHS for fertility treatment so the doctors who gave it were struggling on a very small budget in a little corner of the bospital." "It made me very angry a lot of the time the way we were treated," said John. "My

wife and I were never really properly di-agnosed. One doctor eventually said to me that I could father the population of Bangladesh and there was nothing wrong with my fertility, which was totally at odds with everything else we had been told." "You're meant to be gearing yourself up

to go to these sessions and it is terribly, terribly stressful. The attitude you feel that people have is that 'well, you're not ill'.

"We ended up hating the doctor who

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Dorrell takes sting out of GPs' complaints

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, will today seek to neutralise family doctors as a weapon for the Labour Party in the election, with a packnge of 70 initiatives to improve morale among GPs. Mr Dorrell will publish a White Paper in offect meeting a shopping list of demands for which GPs have election is over. campaigned for years.

tives will be seen as small in themselves, the White Paper is aimed at tackling low morale and stop the GPs being recruiting sergeants for Tony Blair

Family doctors are regarded as important opinion-formers in their communities, and ministers are clearly determined to keep them happy until the

Labour may cry "foul" over

pilot schemes for GP joint comissioning - the system which Labour believes ought to re-place GP fundholding, and which has led to clashes between Mr Dorrell and Chris Smith, his

Labour counterpart. The White Paper, called Primany Care: Delivering the Funae, offers GPs more incentives to rejoin practices after career breaks to start a family, more

the White Paper which includes of the money for research and nance into capital projects for development, and inclusion in the NHS pension scheme for practice teams.

GP fundholders are to be given the right to use savings on budgets for health care to invest in new premises or land for buildings. They will be helped with loans or grants to buy themselves out of leases on poor premises.

The White Paper will be ald retraining, a doubling to £50m a fresh drive to get private fi-

family doctor services on the NHS. Ministers deny it will mean privatising the health service. Private money may be used for building ocw cottage hospitals, where patients could undergo operations closer to

The plans include extending the nurse prescribing pilot scheme from April 1997 in 500 GPs' practices where a total of 1,500 nurses will be given pre-

of the country by April 1998. The White Paper fills the gaps left by the NHS Primary Care Bill, which enables a wide range of pilot schemes for the expan-

sion of family doctor services from April 1998. The Bill faces Labour challenges in the committee stage today in the House of Lords. Baroness Jay, the Labour shadow health minister in the Lords,

scribing power. The aim would has tabled an amendment to be to throw it open to the rest stop private companies proposing pilot schemes, which could forbid Unichem, the chain of pharmacists, from going ahead with plans to run surgeries incorporating their own chemists'

> Labour regards the health service as its strongest battleground for the general election, but Mr Dorrell has intensified the pressure by issuing a string

expanding family doctor services to include more services. The BMA fears it could drain money away from hospitals.

Labour may see the White Paper as an attempt to divert attention from a threatened winter crisis in NHS hospitals, where GPs have been forced in some areas to delay operations until next April when some of the extra £1.6bn for the NHS becomes available.

Tories set to spend £7m on election drive

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

The election campaign will move into a New Year gear next month, with Labour warning local activists that the Tories are planting a £7m propaganda drive from 6 January.

A letter sent out to party volunteers in Labour's target mar-ginal constituencies says: "This will be a massive campaign which will lie about Labour and lie about their own record in government. And it will have

The Conservatives are said to have booked thousands of poster sites to carry permanent displays through to the election, which will be held between the end of February and I May. Fuaring the impact of the Tories' expensive campaign, Labour is planning a pre-emptive strike, with a cost-cutting leaflet drop concentrated on non-Tory households identified by canvas returns. Labour's problem is that it has not got a clue as to what the Conservative posters will be saying. It is

hoping for a leak on the attack, The Conservatives' strategic themes are known to be Blair and tax, a repeat of the successful formula used during the last election: Kinnock and tax. Io that campaign, Neil Kinnock's record of mind-changes - from Europe through to unclear disarmament - cast doubt on his trustworthiness. Labour's shadow

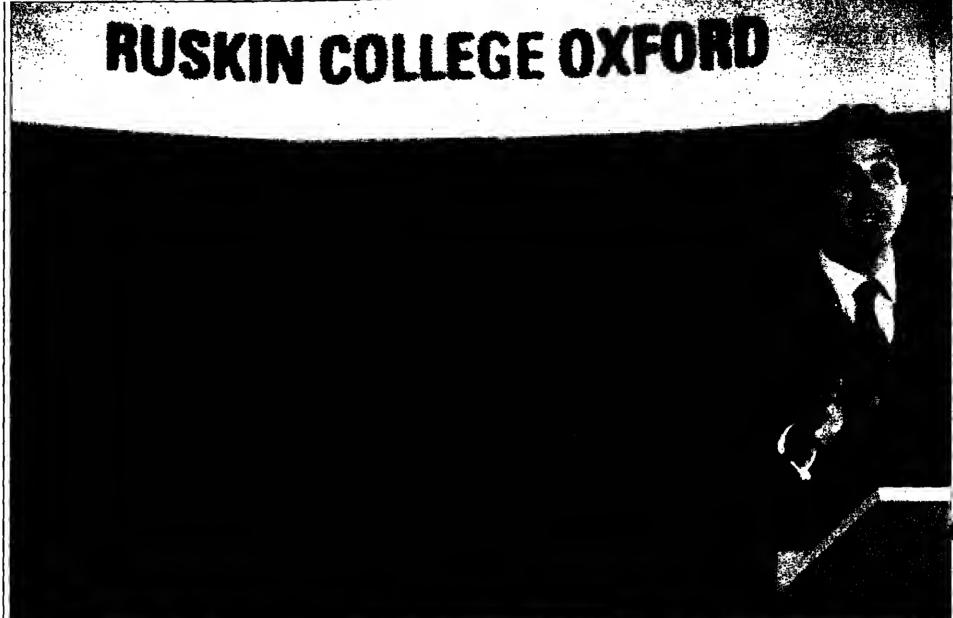
line that Mr Kinnock was planning to drop a "tax bombshell" on middle-income voters.

The up-dated version continues to argue that Labour will drop a "tax bombshell", if only to finance spending commit-ments that have been totted up to £30bn by civil servants working to definitions set by Conser-vative ministers. It is thought that Mr Blair is reluctant to approve any threat to increase tax rates for the wealthy, for fear of giving the Torics ammunition.

As for the personal attack on Mr Blair, ministers argue that he, too, is not to be trusted because he once contested a general election on a manifesto urging withdrawal from the European Economic Community, and was once a supporter of the Cam-

paign for Nuclear Disarmament. The trouble for the Conservatives is that following Mr Major's promises during the last election, and his record since. they are no longer trusted on taxation. The voters trust Mr Blair much more than they trusted Mr Kinnock.

A Labour leadership source said vesterday that they would reply positively to the negative message. But each response will contain a sideswipe against the Tories: arguing that Labour stands for the future, as opposed to the past; that it will fight for the many, not the few who have thrived under the Conservatives; and that it will offer strong leadership, rather than



On the platform: Tony Blair, the Labour leader, in Oxford yesterday, giving a speech which pledged Labour's financial support for standards in classrooms Photograph: Tom Pilston

Blair promises more investment in education

Judith Judd **Education Editor**

government. Tony Blair, the Labour leader, promised yes-

In a speech at Ruskin College, Oxford, where 20 years ago the former Labour prime minister Lord Callaghan attacked school standards, Mr Blair went farther than before in spelling out his

commitment to "steady, consistent investment" in education. Under the Tories, the costs of economic failure and inequality switch money from assisted had gone up. "We want to turn that around, spend less oo leaving people unemployed and in-

vest more in education," he said. But, while there would be

spent a lnt of money on education. They have - but on the wrong things." The plan to typical of Labour's approach. A Labour secretary of state for education should have a higher sta-

tus than his predecessors, he said. Mr Blair added that Labour growth in education, Labour would not wait until a school would be wise rather than big spenders. "It is wrong to think that this government has not the powers to step in. would not wait until a school

of successful schools to take over their failing neighbours, he said: "While it will not [always] be apership teams in successful schools to take oo responsibility for underperforming schools could provide a lifeline for schools caught in a vicious circle of low expectation, poor

management, declining rolls and

Announcing plans for heads Labour would weed out incomperent teachers.

Local authorities welcomed the speech. But Nigel de National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers said: "The principle that education authorities should intervene in failing schools is unchallengeable. I wonder why, having had that ww morale." this power for over 50 years, the repeated his pledge that they fail lamentably to use it."

Doug McAvoy, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, attacked Mr Blair for his continual concentration when most were successful. Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education. yesterday refused to rule out a "hit squad" of educational ex-

perts for the Ridings School,

Halifax, which was temporarily

discipline collapsed.

closed two months ago after

Vord craft: Tory message amended Photograph: Nick Tapsell **SWIFTCALL**

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Run-down city centres win £900m in grants

ernment package aimed at regenerating run-down town centres the Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer, vesteraby pledged £900m in cash grants and approved a further £600m priority borrowing schemes for councils.

The funding will result in a variety of schemes, including improving housing and transport and facilities for young people. Projects such as updating shop-ping centres and clearing land for industry will be boosted by public and private investment and aim to bring long-term jobs and presperity to run-down areas. But the awards met with criticism from local government as-sociations who said last night that they did not make up for

government cuts. The cash grants are part of the Government's Single Regeneration Budget Challenge.

which is in its third year. The 180 en £11.6m for improving crossnew schemes, plus 370 already approved, are expected to generate £7.5bn of private-sector funding in addition to £3bn from the Government over sev-

en years.
Winning schemes chosen by Mr Gummer included a £12m plan by the London Boroughs Recycling Consortium to provide every household in London with a recycling box for rubbish by the millennium. A spokesman for the consortium said: "This initial cash, though less than we hoped, is a good start to bein bor-cughs get door-to-door recycling schemes off the ground."

There was £9.5m for Stock-

port in Cheshire, which will re-ceive a £5.18m to bring new life into its historic centre and can earmark a further £3.75m for a scheme to improve the envi-ronment. And the Cross River Partnership in London was giv-

ings along the River Thames.

Mr Gummer told a conference in London yesterday the Capital Challenge scheme had allowed local authorities rather than goverument to decide the priorities. He said: "The schemes will support a number of economic development projects, with elements of local area regener-

ation and development, education and training projects, and expenditure on intrastructure." However, the awards were criticised last night by local government associations who said they were too small - and left too many bidders disap-pointed. A joint statement by the Association of County Councils, Association of District Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said: Money for regenerating local communities should be based

Justice body to be named

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

The long-awaited Criminal Cases Review Commission will finally begin its work on 1 January, a full three years after its recommen-dation by the 1993 Royal Commission on Criminal Justice,

The members of the commission, which takes over scrutiny of alleged miscarriages of justice from the discredited C3 section at the Home Office, will be disclosed tomorrow in a written Commons answer. But the list - the chairman, Sir Frederick Crawford, was named in the summer ~ could be as noteworthy for who is not on it as

One third of the commissioners must be lawyers and twothirds must have knowledge and experience of the criminal justice system.

Several candidates with knowledge of miscarriages of justice failed to make any headway. They include all three members of the independent Just Television company ~ David Jessel Steve Hayward and Steve Phelps - who have campaigned for people who had been wrongly convicted.

Chris Price, the former Labour MP and director of the former Leeds Polyrechnic, failed to get an interview after applying to be chairman, even though

big-budget organisation and had campaigned for the Confait brothers, whose convictions were quashed by the Court of Appeal

on need, not competition."

Martin Short, the author of a book on Freemasoury, was rejected as a potential member. Sir Frederick, a leading Freemason and former scientist, company director and vicechancellor of Aston University, was picked from 124 candidates. The Home Office had failed to check whether he was a Freemason, and the question was added as an afterthought to

the application forms.

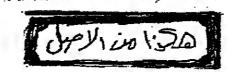
Sir Frederick will be questioned on Freemasonry by the Commons Select Committee he had experience of running a on Home Affairs in the new year.

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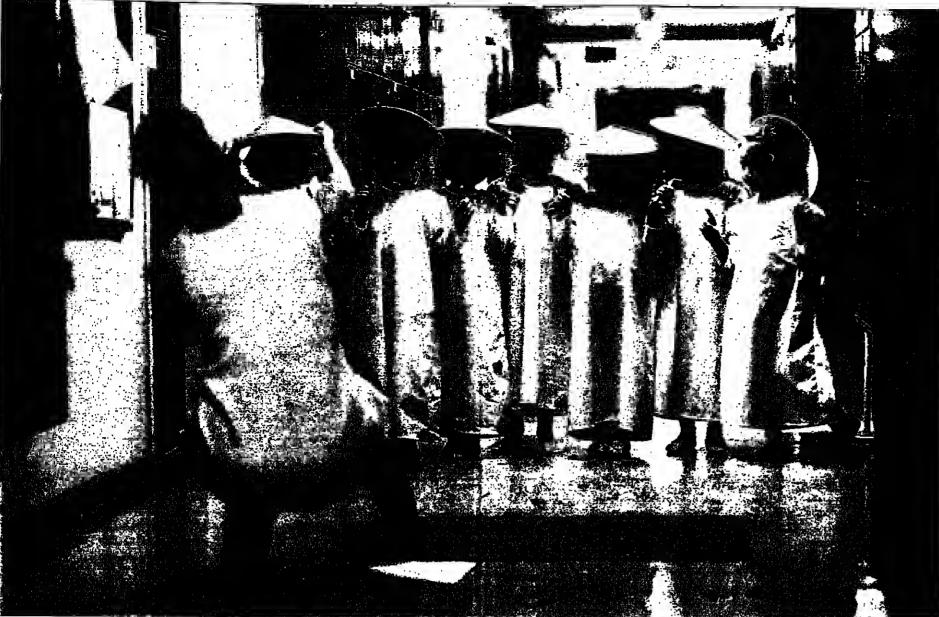


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In Wonderland: Claire Severs takes pictures of four-year-old dancing toadstools who are appearing in the caterpillar scene in performances of Alice given by the Claire Severs Dance Academy at Parliament Hill Girls School, north-west London, during their Christmas term

Photograph: Laurie Lewis

Transplants of pigs' hearts and kidneys to be allowed next year

Plans to go ahead despite fears of viral diseases being passed to humans codings for a virus which have

The Government is expected to puts organs from a different did, we would be regarded as ir- that the report's publication advisory group, which included no harmful effect on the animal, allow the transplant of specialinto humans, in a report to be have been genetically engi-

new scientific findings which mous pressure for human organ that almost two years ago, Imu- while bypassing the body's dehave discovered that some donors, who presently meet tran's research had shown the fence systems. genetic material from viruses in only a small percentage of de-possibility of pig viruses cross-But the Department pigs could cross over into hu- mand. mans, where it might cause totally oew diseases - or have no of Imutran, a Cambridge-based

denied yesterday that it has de-layed the publication of an ad-jected when transplanted to ahead. We are really waiting for visory report, chaired hy humans, said that there is ooth-Professor Ian Keooedy of ing to stop the company from King's College London, into beginning transplants to hu-"xenotransplantatioo", which mans tomorrow. "Bot if we paper story which suggested

species into humans. Such transplants, using animals which neered not to cause tissue Kennedy report is published, The move is expected despite rejection, could ease the coor-

David White, chief executive company which has produced bigs with human genes so that tion. "The FDA is happy with The Department of Health pigs with human genes so that

quest from the Government not to proceed until the ing in a transplant to humans, and that it had informed the Kennedy committee and the US

the Kennedy findings." Suggestions of a cover-up were raised yesterday by a oews-

responsible. We have had a re- was delayed because ministers feared that genetic material known as "retroviruses" in pigs could cross over to humans and we have agreed." He added and cause unknown diseases,

Health insisted yesterday that there has been oo delay to the report's poblication, following its delivery in the summer to the Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell. "The Gov-erument will publish its report sometime in the New Year, and we shall have to wait until then," said a spokesman. One member of the Kennedy

experts in genetics and ethics, also insisted yesterday that the report is in favour of allowing xenotransplantation, providing that adequate safeguards - including close monitoring of patients - are used.

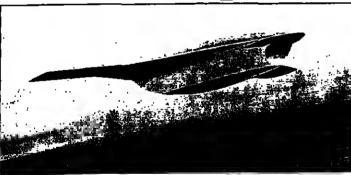
have thought that using pigs' or-gans rather than those from the risk of new diseases, because Cancer Research, said "Basihumans and pigs are further cally, we have such early data oo apart in evolutiooary terms these retroviruses that we can't than primates such as haboons and chimpanzees, which are oo patients." But a key ICR exthe other likely candidates for perimeot had shown that pig

noo-human organs. Retroviruses are the genetic

become incorporated into an animal's own DNA. They have

and are found in every cell. But if retroviruses cross to another species, they can have unpredictable effects. HIV which causes Aids, is a retrovirus which originally came from monkeys. Other Illnesses, including forms of influenza and bacterial infections, have passed from animals to humans. Clive monkeys or apes would reduce Patience, of the Institute of retroviruses could grow in hu-

Don't worry. If you see a flying saucer it's probably one of ours





Flights of fancy: An artist's impression of the uninhabited flying saucer and a new stealth bomber

ground. The new system, whatever in may be, is designed to re-place the RAF's Tornado bombers in about 2015. "We are looking at something to do the pursued."

job way into the next century said a senior MoD source. The Defence Procurement Minister, James Arbuthnot, told Parliameot yesterday: "Study contracts to the value of £35m are expected to he placed in the new year. Options to be examined include variants of the hahited" plane, or an air-launched missile. Whatever it is, sign and off-the shelf combat it will be stealthy and almost cer- aircraft; unmanned air vehitainly have a virtual-reality cles, and stand-off an-to-ground cockpit - either in the plane itself, in another plane, or on the port aircraft.

"Collaborative options will be

Uotil oow the US has maintained the lead in "stealth" technology, making aircraft nearly invisible to vision, radar, heat seeking and other forms of detectioo. But the principles of stealth technology are becoming widely understood and Eu-ropean aircraft designers are becoming increasingly expert at it. "The secrets of stealth are not so black as they were in the past", an RAF officer said, re-ferring to the top-secret US "black programmes".

The new system is needed to attack targets at greater range dropped from a transport plane, than will be possible with the that would explode on impact.

Eurofighter - the RAF's other new aircraft due to enter service in 2002. The most traditional oprioo is to extend the range and payload of the Eurofighter. But to do that, and make it more stealthy, might involve so many changes to the airframe that it would be more cost-effective to get a completely new plane, either from the US, or built in Europe.

That is the second option. The third is the uninhabited aircraft, which could return home and be re-armed. The the fourth is a long-range airlaunched missile, probably

Prince's guru dies aged 90

man cells.

Sir Laurens van der Post, the South African-born explorer conservationist, writer and spiritual guru to the Prince of Wales, has died, just two days

after his 90th hirthday. Sir Laurens' daughter, Lucia Crichtoo-Miller, said he had died peacefully at his home in Cheisea oo Sunday night. A 90th birthday party, organised by the Prince of Wales, had been cancelled on Friday when Sir Laurens became unwell.

The Prince was said to he very saddened at the death of the close friend and adviser. Sir Laurens had heeo "a dear friend for a very long time". Greenpeace hailed Sir Lau-

rens as a man who had "inspired" people's interest in the exploration and protection of the natural world. A spokeswoman said: "His writings helped 20th century men and women retain a vision of nature, without which environmental protection will be the poorer."

Born oo a bush farm in Orange Free State in 1906, Sir Laurens was the 13th child of 15. Although his first love was the South African wilderness, he spent his last 27 years in a

penthouse off the King's Road. His wife is reported to have told people: "Oh, my husband hasn't left Africa, he just lives in London." Sir Laurens himself said he lived here because there was "too much going on" in Africa that would have distracted him from his writing. He wrote a total of 25 books

Although some are oovels, he is best known for the mixed genre of travel, anthropology, and metaphysical speculation. His first book, In a Province the first writtee by a South African against racial prejudice", was published in 1934.
His last, *The Admiral's Baby*, was published in September.

Sir Laurens described Prince Charles as "a man of vision, of many interests and gifts". He also admired, and acted as an adviser to, Baroness Thatcher, In 1981, he was knighted and, a year later, became godfather tn Prince William.

Sir Laurens once said he would like to he remembered as "someone who tried to perform some service for what I think is the overall value in life - expressed by St Paul as charity. Without it no human heing has any hope whatsoever".

Relax, drink and be merry ... it is all good for you

Laughing is good for you. Drinking makes you laugh. Therefore drinking is good for you. It sounds like a theory dreamed up in a puh, but Dr Geoff Lowe, a psychologist from Hull, has three studies to prove it's true.

As the festive season gets into full swing, Dr Lowe will tell the British Psychological Society's conference in Loodoo that moderate drinking may henchit you because of its ability to make you laugh and relax, thus lowering stress levels and boost-

ing the immune system.

Three separate studies organised by the University of Hull found that social drinkers laugh more than those who drink little or not at all. A survey of 332 people who defined themselves "social drinkers" showed they used humour and laughter more in everyday life than lighter drinkers or teetotallers. They were more prepared to laugh out loud eveo if no one else

found a joke amusing.

These are people who regarded themselves as social drinkers and perhaps who do oot drink more than 50 units a reek." said Dr Lowe. One unit is defined as a glass of wine, a "I would laugh more."

small beer or a small serving of

A second experiment uoder laboratory conditions found that people drinking two bottles of Diamond White strong cider laughed 30 to 40 per ceot more at the first twenty minutes of the film Naked Gun than those

drinking non-alcoholic heer. Researchers also observed how much young penple laughed in bars and pubs in Hull, Leeds, Sheffield and York, Again a similar finding was that those drinking seemed to

be having more fun.
"Unlike the carlier hiological
and medical studies which suggested that alcohol has a cardiological protective effect, our message is that maybe it is something to do with the person's lifestyle and attitude to life and the fact that they engage in fun and laughter more," Dr

Lowe said. "We are saying perhaps people shouldn't use alcohol as a medicine but unly as a facilitator for fun and I believe that

ight be the important thing." He said that this was not carte blanche for raiding the drinks cabinet however: "I wouldn't necessarily drink more as a basis of this research," he said.

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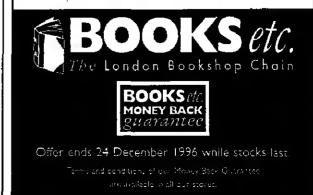


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Schools could lose choice of exam boards posal to cut the oumber of feeling dissatisfied. Whatever tweeo syllahuses and exam subconsciously - being eroded

Lucy Ward **Education Correspondent**

Christopher Bellamy

An "uninhabited" flying saucer

- the MoD says "unmanned"

would be politically incorrect -

is one the options being exam-

ined to enable the RAF to at-

tack distant targets into the

middle of the next century.

Britain is to spend £35m

looking at options for the Fu-

ture Air Offensive System

(FAOS).It could be an "uni-

Defence Correspondent

Schools could be banned from shopping around exam boards for a pick-and-mix of preferred syllahuses in an attempt to boost their results under proposals being considered by government curriculum advisers. Instead, schools could be forced to choose just one of three approved awarding bodies to cover all subjects.

The step is among a package of measures under discussion aimed at restoring flagging pubof standards across qualifications. A powerful committee in-

cluding the heads of the agencies overseeing academic and vocational qualificatioos, the School Curriculum and Assessmeot Authority (SCAA) and the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ), is examining the proposals, outlined in a paper seen

by The Independent. Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, highlighted coo-cern over inconsistencies be-

boards earlier this mooth after the publication of a national study, "Standards Over Time", comparing standards in public exams over the last 20 years.

Although the report found no evidence that standards had fallen, Mrs Shephard said she wanted the four English exam boards and three vocational awarding bodies reduced in number to iron out inconsistencies. The paper under considera-

aeknowledges the "suspicion

that standards are slowly - eveo

non by the advisory committee

as awarding bodies compete for husiness amoogst schools and colleges judged publicly by their examination results". Schools and colleges anx-

ious to boost their rating in exam league tables may be tempted to shop around for the easier syllabuses in an attempt to notch up higher grades, says the paper, while awarding bodies may consider lowering their standards "m a hid to improve their market share aod prospects of survival".

awarding bodies to three. Schools and colleges would

then be made to choose one of the three bodies, ending the free market which allows individual subject departments to select their preferred syllabus. That proposal, if adopted, could cause deep dissent within institutions as subject departments battled for their preferred exam board.

George Turnhull of the Associated Examinations Board point out that their numbers said: "You would certainly leave The document includes a pro-some teachers and departments to four in under 10 years.

way you look at it this is taking away choice."

Another suggested change is greater cooperatioo between awarding bodies in the process of standards-setting to ensure consistency in questions and marking. Mrs Shephard has said she

will stop short of creating o single exam hoard, but the awarding bodies are deeply unhappy at the prospect of reform. They have already been cut from 24

Police to get post-disaster counselling

Government to fund debriefing sessions following £1.2m court pay-out to Hillsborough officers

Counselling is to be offered by the Government to traumatised police officers involved in tragedies such as Dunblane, Hillsborough and Lockerbie.

The Health and Safety Executive is to fund two police forces - Strathclyde Police and the Royal Ulster Constabulary - to draw up the plan, which may also be adopted by fire and ambulance services.

The move follows the recent case of 14 police officers who were at the 1989 Hillsborough disaster, in which 96 people died, successfully suing South Yorkshire Police for £1.2m for the stress they suffered. Police massacre are also reported to be planning legal action for compensation.
The Government hopes that

by drawing up a standard model, which incorporates best practice from forces around the country, it can limit the likelihood of such litigation.

Dr David Courtney, chief medical adviser to the RUC, said: "There are a lot of people doing what they believe to be the right thing, and there is conflicting evidence about the use of debriefing."

New research, revealed in The Independent in October, shows that instant counselling sessions, where disaster victims are encouraged to talk about

Researchers in Cardiff and Oxford have found that such tactics may induce post-traumatic stress disorder in those who otherwise would not have had it. Most police forces still use a "hot debriefing" system whereby officers are encouraged to express their emotions, fears and anxieties in group therapy within 72 hours of the incident.

The new findings have been considered by the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) joint working group on organi-sational health and welfare. The group's chairman. Sussex Chief Constable Paul Whitehouse, has warned senior officers in all forces that the hot dehriefing method may not always be appropriate.

There is also concern over cumulative stress in the police service. Some 60 per cent of police retirements are now on health grounds. Stress levels in the police are so high that officers could face limits on the number of murders, rapes and fatal accidents they are allowed to investigate. Senior officers will consider the future introduction of annual stress audits to gauge the mental state of officers by tracking the number of critical incidents they have been in-

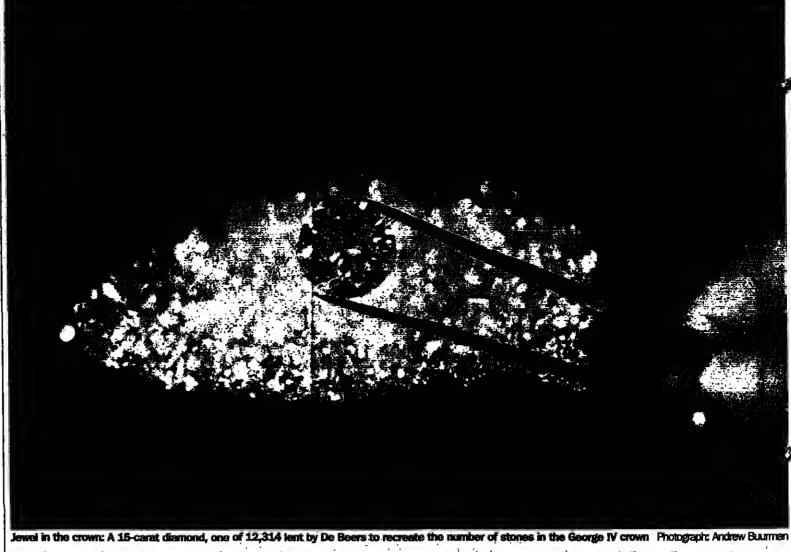
Operational police work has been ranked alongside bomb

what they saw and experienced, disposal work and piloting an may actually be counter-prooccupations. It is considered twice as stressful as being a lawyer, bank manager or High

Court judge.
Interviews conducted by researchers from the University of Manchester with Greater Manchester Police revealed that the officers who suffer most from stress are young, inexperienced constables and long-serving inspectors. A small minority of officers, (5 per cent), claimed to never suffer from stress while 70 per cent admitted that they felt stress on a regular basis.

Police officers ranked dealing with riots as their most stress ful task, followed by fatal road accidents, rapes, sudden deaths and domestic disputes. However, long-term stress is likely to arise from more mundane problems like poor shift patterns, time pressures and disciplinary proceedings. Rare momeots of low-stress were provided by filling out lost property reports and dealing with shoplifters.

Westwood, vice-chairman of the Police Federation welcomed the recognition in the police service of the pressures that officers were under. He pointed out that police had also developed their own methods of reducing stress such as the black humour which was invariably used when describing traumatic operations to colleagues in the



Crowning glory at Tower exhibition

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

Further temptation will be unveiled this week at the Tower of London for the natural successors to Colonel Blood and the deranged woman who made a rown of George I in 1815.

grab for the Imperial State Three royal crown frames not seen by the public this century will go on display in the Mar-

tin Tower - the 1715 George I 1800s, the gems were so costly of King George TV (1821) and the Coronation Crown of Queen Adelaide (1831).

Alongside the George IV crown will be a £2.5m pile of 12,314 diamonds, lent by De Beers to represent the number of diamonds originally set in the frame. Before De Beers and its predecessors starting mining diamonds in South Africa in the

that monarchs generally hired a set for their coronation. George IV faced a hire charge of £65,000.

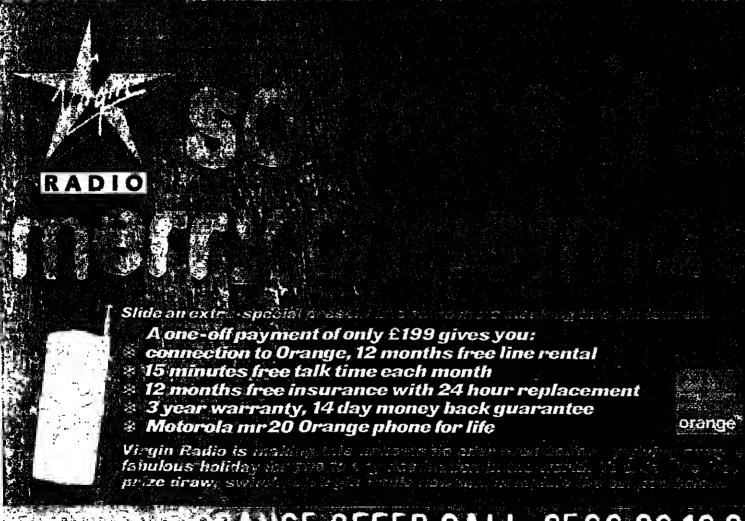
The "Crowns and Diamonds" permanent exhibition which opens to the public on Thursday is something of a homecoming. For 200 years the Martin Tower was known was the "Jewel Tower" because from 1669 the regalia were dis-

shape when a "deranged woman" tried to snatch it In 1671, the Tower was the scene of the only successful attempt to steal the Crown Jewels. Colooel Blood and his accomplices overwhelmed Keeper Talbot Edwards and

through a grille. It is the oldest surviving English state crown. The three frames - discard-







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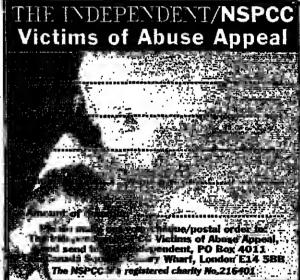
A helping hand for the abused

Glenda Cooper

At the end of a year wheo The Independent has campaigned for victims of child abuse to be given a voice, we would like you to support our Victims of Abuse appeal to help children whose lives have been devastated. Our Christmas fund-raiser is

in support of projects run by the National Society for the Preto belp children who have been abused and to help prevent future abuse. The NSPCC relies on public

donations for 85 per cent of its income. We would like you to contribute between now and Christmas. Your money will go

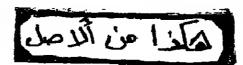


to help projects such as the freephone helpline which takes on average 1,200 a week, the London Investigation Team which works with police and so-

cial services to investigate paedophiles and the Kaleidoscope project in Newcastle which treats children who have abused other childreo.



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international

significant shorts

Mandela joins Mafia bombing summit on

Zairean crisis

President Nelson Mandela of South Africa joined eight other leaders at a summit in Kenya on the crisis in the Great Lakes region but Zaire, the country at the heart of the conflict, stayed away. Its absence, apparently in protest at what it says is Rwandan and Ugandan support for a rebellion in the east, was a blow to hopes for

Bosnians fail to get home

Fewer than a third of the expected 870,000 Bosnians were able to return home in the first year of peace in the meeting heard. Sadako
Ogata, UN High
Commissioner for Refugees, said a big push should be made to increase the flow of refugees back next spring as long as it was safe, even if they wanted to stay in host countries. "Involuntary return is not excluded," she said. AP - Geneva

Corsican hard man gives up

Francois Santoni, Corsica's best-known hardline separatist leader. surrendered hours after police arrested his woman friend. He heads the legal wing of the nutlawed FLNC-Canal Historique, held responsible for dozens of bomb attacks Reuter - Ajaccio

Dictator escapes death sentence

The death sentence on the former president Chun Doo Hwan, imposed for a 1979 coup and massacre of demonstrators, was commuted to life imprisonment. As the former military dictator was led out of the Scoul Appellate Court cries of "Murdererl" and screams of outrage rang out disbelief. AP - Seoul

Christmas

suspect found hanged in cell

Giuseppe Biondo, 39, a suspects in the 1992 assassination of anti-Mafia prosecutor Paolo Borsellino. was found hanging from a bedsheet in his cell, an apparent suicide. He was arrested last month on charges of supplying the remote-control device used to blow up Borsellino and five bodyguards.

AP - Caltanissetta, Sicily

100 killed in Somali clash

Rival factions fought for a third day running in the Somali capital, taking the death-toll to nearly 100 in the clashes between the forces of Hussein Aideed and Osman Hassan Ali Atto. Reuter – Mogadishu

Hit-squad claim resurfaces

A Spanish paper published leaked papers purporting to prove the former Socialist administration set up death-squads which waged a "dirty war" against Eta Basque rebels in the 1980s. Reuter - Madrid

Minister quits in Stasi row

Grete Faremn, Nnrway's Oil and Energy Minister, resigned over a scandal in which the intelligence service sought information from files of the former East German Stasi security police on an investigator, Berge Furre, a former left-wing politician, Reuter - Oslo

Russian soldiers sell blood

The Russian military is so dispirited and impoverished that officers have been forced to sell their blood to afford basic necessities, the Defence Minister, Igor Rodionov, Reuter - Moscow

Panic as Chinese markets crash



Mass market: Stock Investors crowd a brokerage hall in Peking yesterday after market prices fell dramatically; would-be sellers also jammed telephone lines Photograph: Reuters

Teresa Poole Shanghai

China's fledgling stockmarkets collapsed yesterday after a warning from the Communist Party that recent frenzied m-creases in share prices were 'abnormal and irrational".

The People's Daily, in a frontpage commentary, said: "The present overheated state of China's share markets makes us think of the stock crash in America in 1929."

The move was a rather clumsier version of what Alan Greenspan, the chairman of

American markets earlier this year. But as China moves closer to resuming sovereignty over Hong Kong - one of the world's most important financial centres - it will inevitably raise questions about the ability of Peking to handle modern capitalist insti-

Within minutes of China's two exchanges opening for busi-ness in Shanghai and Shenzhen, most shares had dropped the full 10 per cent maximum allowed under a new rule which came into effect yesterday to of the new investors entered the limit daily movements. Panic- market over the past few stricken small investors queued months, entired by soaring

around the country desperately trying to sell shares, but most were unable to offload their stock before trading was halted. In Shanghai, phones at stockbrokers were jammed with calls from would-be sellers. "The government's cheated

us," one man shouted to foreign reporters outside a Peking share-trading company, after failing to sell his shares. The number of shareholders

in China has doubled this year to more than 21 million. Most

new experience for them and the government's attempt to cool speculation also risks sparking a wave of anger among the smaller punters. Most market analysts expected further 10 per cent falls today and maybe again later this week.

Chinese investors are allowed to buy so-called "A" shares, which until the recent set-back had tripled since April in Shenzhen, and doubled in Shanghai. Over the past month, that boom had spurred a surge in hard-currency denominated "B" shares, which are officially restricted to foreign buyers,

on the sly by local investors. Shanghai B shares had jumped 80 per cent since 11 November, and Shenzhen B shares about 100 per cent, before the nosedive started, The People's Daily article,

trailed the night before on national television, warned investors that the government would not step in to belp if the markets plunged. It told the public that the safest place to put its money was in the bank. Many stockbrokers and analysts said the tone of the article

Peking (Reuters) — Chinese Premier Li Peng yesterday formally appointed shipping tycoon was unduly barsh. "This is very, Tung Chee-hwa as the first very disappointing and outrapost-colonial chief executive of

The government experiment

with stock exchanges, which started in 1990, has been

deemed a success as Chinese

companies were forced to pro-

duce increasingly accurate and

regular financial statements,

and could also use the market

to raise funds for expansion. For

investors it provided an alter-

native to bank savings especially

when interest rates, as this year,

Turks pour cold water on Rifkind's Cyprus mission

Nicosia

The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, expressed hope yes-terday that 1997 could he the year for a breakthrough in the Cyprus dispute, but quickly ran into opposition from the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash.

Mr Denktash told him that the Turkish Cypriots wanted to treat next year as "a year of np-portunity for settling the Cyprus problem" but that the issue should not be linked to Cyprus's application to join the European Union.

'Cyprus's membership of the EU should be a matter for a referendum after the Cyprus prob-lem has been solved," Mr Denktash said. His remarks appeared to be a rebuff to Britain and other EU countries which are hoping in use Cyprus's membership bid as way of accelerating progress to-

wards a settlement. Mr Rifkind, the first British Foreign Secretary for more than



Malcolm Rifkind: Warning over military build-up

years to make an official visit in Cyprus, held separate talks with Mr Denktash and Glafcos Clerides, the president of the internationally recognised government of Cyprus.

"As one looks at the issues, one is conscious that they are dif-ficult but they are not insuperable," Mr Rifkind said. "I think that there is real scope for progress and that 1997 nught to be the year in which perhaps a breakthrough will be made." 30,000 Turkish troops on Cyprus and a military build-up taking place in the Greek Cyprintcontrolled south, there was a grave danger that further militarisation of the island could prevent diplomatic progress. "The amount of military hardware ... is dangerously high," he said.

United Nations peace-keeping troops said there had been a noticeable rise in tensions in the UN-patrolled huffer zone on the island since last summer, when the worst clashes since 1974 broke out between Greek and Turkish Cyprints. One UN officer said there were at least two to three incidents every day, sometimes involving shooting. Mr Clerides said he was will-

ing to enter into direct talks next year with Mr Denktash, for the first time since 1994, but that such negotiations would have to be well prepared. Among the key issues are those of sovereignty, security and territorial

Mr Clerides insists Cyprus known positions unless Anl must be a single state with encourages him to do so."

However, he warned that with undivided sovereignty for international purposes, but Mr Denktash wants to retain sovereignty for his self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus which no country except Turkey recognises. Mr Clerides also wants international security guarantees for Cyprus included in a settlement, and a return to Greek Cypriot rule of some parts of the northern third of the island seized by Turkish

forces in 1974. The basic framework for a settlement - a bizonal, bicommunal federation with guaranteed rights for both sides - is already in place. But Mr Rifkind said: "You cannot reverse thirty years of disappointments overnight."

A senior adviser to Mr Clerides said that the key tn successful talks next year lay with Turkey just as much as with Mr Denktash.

"There must be a spirit of give and take," he said. "Mr Denktash will not move from his known positions unless Ankara

manding that Mr Netanyahu drop plans to expand Jewish set-tlements on the West Bank and

Arab East Jerusalem. Dr

Ashrawi yesterday condemned

last Friday's decision to restore

incentives for settlers to make

their homes there. "Land for peace," she said, "is the very

essence of the peace process."

Washington seems to agree,



Netanyahu set to lift siege of Ramallah as talks resume

Jerusalem

Israel and the Palestinians are to resume negotiations this week on Hebron, the last West Bank town still under occupation, but there was little optimism on either side yesterday that they would reach early agreement on the scheduled redeployment of Israeli troops.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, told parliament in Jerusalem that he was counter-proposals. He indicated, however, that Israel would soon lift the siege imposed on the West Bank tuwn of Ramallah ofter Palestinian gunmen shot dead n mother and child driving to a nearby settlement last Wednesday.

The decision to return to the lessly dragging out the Hebron negotiating table was taken during a 10-minute telephone conversation on Sunday night between Mr Netanyahu and the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, But Hanan Ashrawi, a Palestinian minister who was present when Mr Arafat telephoned the Prime Minister, told foreign correspondents yesterday that the prospects

"They've been meeting ad nauseam," she said. "When still waiting for Palestinian there are talks, there is no substance and there are no results." The question was whether there was the political will on the Israeli side - and whether the United States was ready to take its mediating role seriously.

The Israelis, for their part,

blame the Palestinians for need-

Palestinians' main concern is to ensure that the Likud government completes the rest of the interim peace accord after pulling out of Hebron. Under an agreement reached were still very bad.

The Palestinians insist the terms cannot be renegotiated. Only their implementation, they say, is open to discussion.

with the previous Labour government, Israeli troops were supposed to have redeployed in March, but the withdrawal was postponed after an epidemic of suicide bombings inside Israel by Islamic militants. Israel wants to enhance the security of the 450 settlers living in the cenare of Hebron among 150,000 Arabs.

talks and accuse them of incit-

ing a new round of violence. The

Arab countries, and will damage US interests in the Middle East." The Palestinians are also de-

and is urging Mr Netanyahu to think again. Three former secretaries of state - James Baker, Lawrence Eagleburger and Cyrus Vance - appealed to him vesterday not to jeopardise all that had been achieved over two decades of peacemaking, "Such a tragic result," they wrote, "will threaten the security of Israel, the Palestinians and friendly

France's brand new national library: a fitting tribute to a president or folie des grandeurs?.





It was conceived as the "biggest and most modern library in the world". As its four towers grew out of the urban wasteland by the Seine, it was scornfully referred to by Parisians as the Très Grande Bibliothèque (very big library) or TGB, a play on the name of the country's superfast inter-city express, the TGV (Train a Grand Vitesse), a name which has stuck.

Now, its enemies say, it is a white elephant, old before it is fully finished; its friends land it as a modern asset for a modern when President Chirac performs the official opening be-fore a crowd of national celebrities and city dignitaries, it will be the François Mitterrand Library, the national library of France, and the second biggest library in the world after the US Library of Congress.

24 hours before the official opening, this great national project seemed far from finished. Workmen were hammering, painting and wiring in the depths of the broad, woodlined corridors. As the library's architect, Dominique Perrault, shepherded groups around the inaugural exhibition on encyclopaedism, trade union representatives put on a rival show to complain about inadequate safety facilities and staffing.

ft was an appropriate conflict to herald the library's opening. Everything about the project has been controversial since the late President Mitterrand announced it on the first Bastille Day of his second term in office (1988). Everything, that is, except its purpose. Existing national library facilities were universally acknowledged to be inadequate; even academicians had to queue from early morning to get a seat and no one knew exactly how many books ment stopped. Mr Mitterrand

it possessed. For a country that regards itself as highly cultivated

the need for a new library was

unquestioned. The French were

also much impressed with the American practice of outgoing presidents founding libraries.

But that is where the agree-

BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE

Announced: By President Mitter-rand 14 July, 1988. Building start-ed in 1991. Mitterand opened bare buildings on 30 March 1995, short-ly before end of his second term. December 1996, Today, President Chirae officially opens library. On 20 December, first areas open to pub-lic. Capacity: Originally designed to hold five million volumes, but it was soon decided that this was far too few. Size: 7.5 hectares (18.5 acres).

saw his project as providing state-of-the-art library facili-

ties for all. But experts asked

whether storing great numbers

of books might be a thing of the

past, given the widespread use

of computers. The library now

combines on-line facilities with

retary of State for Education, Shirley Williams. Building work began in 1982. Architect Colin St. John Wilson has been working on the design since 1962. Completed: The first books were moved in on 2 December 1996. Readers will be admitted in November 1997. The library will not be fully open until June 1999. Capacity: Scholars demanded capacity for 25 million volumes. However, be cause of cuts, there is now only room for 12 million. Cost: Shirley Williams's stands at £511m. Size: 13 acres.

Then there was the design. It is a gigantic rectangle, with

towers at the four corners in the

shape of open books. A central

courtyard with pine trees pro-vides space for "contempla-

tion". Criticisms have ranged

Williams: Initiated project

scale". Distances are huge prompting questions about how long it will take to obtain a book... Vast staircases lead to the entrance, leading one local resihardiest would make the climb.

ed to the demands of a library. The towers were planned to be transparent and to accommodate the book stacks - but the class is now dulled by wooden blinds to keep out the sunlight and protect the books.

When it was decided that the building would house the na-tional library collection in addition to new facilities, capacity had to be increased from five million to more than 10 million ohumes. The towers had to be reinforced to carry the weight, and their height reduced from 100m to 90m. This, say some, makes the ensemble less impressive - or, to quote another local resident: "they're not

beautiful, not ugly, just squat." The location, in a godforsaken wasteland of eastern Paris was also questioned. An urban development plan was supposed to revive the whole area, but this has since been pared down and is now frozen. A new metro line was planned to link

tre, but this will not be read now until the summer of 1998 at the earliest. So it stands, windswept and alone, awaiting its first readers. The public reference rooms will open their doors on Friday. The specialist research section, however, on the "garden floor" will not be completed until 1998.

Since last year, when the interior was a cold, empty shell, that looked more like a theatre for totalitarian rallies than a library, there has been progress The computers are (mostly) wired up, there are books of sive tapestry, designed by Roy But when he pronounces the edifice "the François Mitterrand library", Mr Chirac will be

delivering a backhanded com-planent. Whether it becomes a flourishing cultural centre or a lavish eccentricity, as its opponents believe, it will forever bear

Yesterday, however, less than the national library collection. Production Chairman Secretary Design Coordinator Central Designer Marketing Assistant

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Work smarter not just harder

Cross-Channel sibling has kept to the storyline The new British Library may not Dominique Perrault's library be much outside, but it is a better woods to win our minds, let alone our hearts.

is a structural tour de force, an architectural commorum and not a very pleasant place to be. Dwarfed, the visitor climbs 36

narrow and steep steps from the street to reach a prairie-like piazza marked on its of its four corners by four identical and vertiginous L-shaped glass towers. Books are stacked in these. shaded from daylight by a web of wooden louvres.

If it seems perverse to house precious books in sky-scraping glass towers, it is: Perrault has courted controversy with a design that must have looked enticing on the drawing-board, but is quite batty in practice. It seems even stranger, having climbed up to the library's great podium, to be forced downstains and underground to find the reading rooms. Stairs, escalators and lifts lead down to corridors that seem infinitely long (180 yards in fact) and daunting. These lead to a long sequence of grey concrete "salons", each lined in all but irreplaceable grand reading room and little sense of pleasure.

One might wonder why this gratuitous exercise in monumental structural symmetry was ever commissioned, given the fact that more and more peothrough desk-top computers at home. This, however, is not the point: the library is an all too vis-ible symbol of French learning and culture and its perversity can only make it famous, if not

The British Library, its crosschannel sibling, is unloved too and has been for many years. Perhaps this is because it has taken so long to get off the ground; perhaps it is because its earnest and bricky architectural style, designed by Colin St John Wilson & Partners, has long gone out of fashion; perhaps it is because readers will miss the stupendous domed Victorian reading room of the existing British Library and all but hidden in the central courtyard of the British Museum: perhaps it is because the library is expensive (the most costly of all British buildings past and present) and has fallen foul of building, writes Jonathan Glancey

ragos during its painfully slow The Prince of Wales unkindly

described the British Library as looking like a secret-police headquarters; it doesn't, of course; it looks like a giant municipal building that has made its way from Scandinavia, hav-ing crashed beadfirst through an English brickworks on the way.

Prince Charles, and many

other critics, should have reserved their catty comments until they had seen the interi-or of this beautifully crafted building. When complete, the great lobby, with its its lofty and tayered ceilings, will be one of the greatest civic spaces this country has to show. No, it will not be fashionable or daring like Perrault's Parisian folly, but it enides quality, reassurance and, in an age of electronically retrieved information, a sense of what a library is there for. A library, as the French have obviously agreed, is much more than a storehouse of books. If it is no more than that, then both the French and the British

technical faults and other far-ragos during its painfully slow houses somewhere along their national motorway networks and connected them to subscribers via the Internet.

No: great libraries are huilt as evident symbols of national culture and the long accumulation of great learning and books and manuscripts that are often lovely to the touch as well as fascinating to read. They are places to meet, to watch other people and to bask in the virtual presence of those great minds that have sat and studied as we sit and study; virtual minds because these are with us in libraries, stacked in volumes

that line miles of shelves. The sheer tactile quality of the spaces and rooms inside the British Library will bring their own reward when the great reading public discovers them in the next year or three. The British Library is a building we will come to respect, if not to love, whilst Perrault's Très Grande Bibliothèque (TGB) is in danger of neither being loved nor respected. It is too clever a design by half, too daunting and too wasteful of rare and endangered hard-

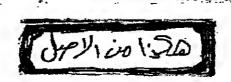
In urban-planning terms, too, the British Library is, despite its bulk, the gentler of the two buildings. Its location between Euston and St Pancras and King's Cross stations will ensure that its readers arrive by public transport. The TGB is a horrid place to arrive on a wet and windy day, not least because its concealed entrances can only be reached after a climb up the stairs of the podium and a trek

across its exposed top. If you think either of these monumental national libraries not a little mad, consider the case of the up-and-coming new £170m library at Alexandria: a giant cylinder rising above the city's eastern harbour, its foundations are being dug deep into the water. Books and water: a sound basis for a library?

Perhaps we can work more effectively from home at computer screens, but libraries, especially grand libraries, are as much places of research as they are of civic romance and cultural pride. Criticise them by all means, but, secretly, those of us who love the quiet and secret drama of major libraries will be bagging our seats in Paris from today, in London, from 2000.



User-friendly: The new British Library which, in contrast to its counterpart in Paris, had good communication links and ecodes more of a sense of what a library is for



Clinto rabid de jaws in thitewat

dealers of

Smallis beautiful. from Direct Line.

Clinton's 'rabid dog' sinks his jaws into Whitewater

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

They could hardly be more different: the cool, pin-striped Republican prosecutor, and the ranting, hluejean-clad Democrat political consultant. And now Kenneth Starr and James Carville are adversaries in a battle that would be comic were the stakes not so high - Mr Starr's independent counsel investigation of President Bill Clinton and the First Lady.

Throughout a recent career which has taken him from a key rule in Mr Clinton's 1992 election campaign to a marriage with an equally belligerent Rethough has he generated as much verbiage as now.

new mission: an unholy war Carville to be an ambitious, selfbringing down the Clinton presstop that happening, the con-

sultant announced he was setting up an organisation to attack Mr Starr.

The reaction was predictable: media and political uproar, accusations that Mr Carville's campaign against an indepen-dent federal prosecutor amounted to an obstruction of justice - all fuelled by Mr Clin-ton's reluctance to publicly disavow his quarrelsome former aide. In fact, the presidential silence was predictable, given Mr Clinton's complaints that Mr Starr was "out to get him".

Ms Matalin was not going to let a happy marriage get in the way of some old-fashioned Dewith an equally belingerent specifican political operative, she told Fox TV, was a month of the knack of getting should be knack of getting as a front man for the President. To which the knack of getting should be knack of getting as a front man for the President. To which the knack of getting should be knack of getting the knack of getting should be knack of getting the knack of gett went home and bit her."

Obscured by this vaudeville Hardly was the 1996 election is an issue that increasingly over than he embarked on a troubles constitutional experts and less partisan politicians: against Mr Starr, held by Mr that the institution of the special counsel, set up to cope with seeking Republican bent on the unique case of Watergate, had been devalued and turned idency by fair means or foul. To into a cheap party political



Dogged loyalty: James Carville, his wife Mary Matalin and baby. After her TV attack he 'went home and bit her'

has been turned on a process that no longer works; others argue that his partisan antics we only obscured the issue

and delayed real reform. Even Archibald Cox, the Watergate special prosecutor fired

Opinions are mixed on the lieves the system must be merits of the Carville enterprise. Changed by limiting such investigations to a tiny handful of the country's topmost officials and to offences committed in of- to Watergate. fice - not, as in the case of Whitewater, to events back in ic of the system, Mr Cox advo-Arkansas a decade or more be-

fore Mr Clinton entered the

White House. As well as the

present Cabinet officers are the object of prosecutions, also for alleged wrongdoing that does not remotely measure up Like almost every other crit-

cates strict restrictions to prevent open-ended "fishing expeditions". The Whitewater by President Nixon in 1973, be- President, three other past and probe, for instance, has already

lasted three years (longer than Watergate) and cost some \$25m (£16m), yet no charges have been levelled against Mr Clin-ton. Several of those who have been tried and convicted were punished for crimes only distantly related to the land deal

Photograph: K Campbell/Liaison business. Nobody beyond his staff, and certainly not Mr Carville, knows when, or even charges against Mrs Clinton, let alone her husband, without

Mr Starr, meanwhile, con-tinues imperturbably about his

if, further indictments will come. It is considered unlikely, however, that he would press overwhelming proof of guilt on an issue that ordinary Amer-

Women still face abuse at **US 'male** citadel'

Rupert Cornwell

Barely a year after it was forced to admit women for the first time, the Citadel military college in Charleston, South Carolina has suspended a cadet and three student officers for the alleged hazing" - systematic bu-miliation - of two first year emale cadets.

In a case which now involves both the state police and the FBI, the women - among four currently enrolled at the Citadel were sprayed with inflammable liquid and their clothes set on fire. Neither was injured in the incident, but the two had previously suffered threats of violence and physical abuse,

college officials said.

Such "hazing" is technically against college rules. In fact, however, the practice is ingrained in the culture of an institution which always prided itself on the supposedly character-forming qualities of the barsh treatment inflicted on

new entrants in their first year. But in 1995 the traditions of century and a half were turned in their head, when the statesupported Citadel bowed to a Supreme Court decision that its previous men-only policy was unconstitutional. After a two year legal struggle, Shannon Faulkner, the woman who had brought the original case against the college, was admitted as a resident, full-time

Although she dropped out after just five days, complaining of the strain and isolation of being the only woman, four more enrolled in 1996. They pa-rade and study with their male counterparts, but live in separate quarters and have been excused some of the physically toughest training disciplines. The FBI has been brought in because the two cadets civil

rights may have been violated. According to a Citadel spokesman, the women did not initially report the clothes-burning incident, which took place a month ago, to the college authorities. But now that a probe has belatedly begun, more suspensions could be on the way,

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including VAT

£24/month*

officials said



Hair today: Tickle for a third

America's parents possessed by Elmo mania

David Usborne

It's official: the 1996 Christmas Craze Award in the kiddies' toy category (United States and eyes and bright nose recognis-Elmo. Only this guy likes to Power Rangers. have his tummy rubbed and goes by"Tickle Me Elmo".

This furry stroke of marketing brilliance has amply mea-sured up to the award's usual high standards.

Canada) is awarded to a stuffed and the mere mention of it trigtoy in deep crimson with bug gers general hysteria. Past winners have included Cabbage able to fans of Sesame Street as Patch Dolls, Transformers and

ther can confirm) is the Talking Woody doli made popular by the film *Toy Story*. Buzz Lightyear dolls (winner, Unit-With eight days until Christ-mas, it is absolutely unavailable an easy find here. Tickle Me Elmo's perfor-

mance is this: tickle it once and it giggles, tickle a second time and you hear. "Oh no, that tickles". Indulge your sadistic im-A runner-up this year (as this fuserated correspondent and fa-

The toy has captured the in hospital after being trampled requisite rush of media attention. Whose pen-portrait graced the front page of the Wall Street Journal's Marketplace section yesterday? Tickle Me Elmo's. It is a serious commodity, after all, that is priced at \$29 (£18) but

can be sold at over a grand. A fresh story of Elmo-mania superstore in Canada ended up the doll, but, like all Americans PC & TV for Xmas?

at 3 o'clock in the morning by some 300 frenzied parents attracted by a middle-of-the-night special Elmo sale,

Last week, the news wires bombarded us with the Florida grandmother who paid \$3,500 immediately. for a single Tickle Me Elmo in a live auction held by her local lands almost daily. At the week-end, an assistant in a Wal-Mart oo child in mind that might want 300,000 dolls but has now

by now, she knew she simply had to have one. In New York. mothers have been seen chasing toy lorries in case fresh Elmo supplies are concealed within. In Britain, Selfridges had 40 but one American bought them The toy's maker, Tyco, is,

shall we say, tickled. It originally upped that to one million.

Litter laws sweep LA drug dealers off the streets

Tim Cornwell Los Angeles

Prosecutors in Los Angeles, in their latest attempt to break the power of the city's gangs, have rolled out a novel legal weapon: civil court for everything from loitering to littering.

wringing damages from the mated at 20,000 and linked to Crips or the Bloods. But sym- 154 killings in the last decade. pathetic judges are granting injunctions that proscribe a wide range of gang activities, and have effectively given police broad new powers of arrest. ed as a prison gang, is said to

jor American cities, has seen a significant drop in its murder rates in the last two years. But gang killings now account for nearly half the homicides in LA County and are among the they are suing gang members in most difficult to solve. One rising power is the 18th Street oitering to littering. gang, a cross-racial gang with a There is no prospect of loose-knit membership esti-

> Thirteen alleged leaders of the Mexican mafia, la Eme (the M) are on trial in a Los Angeles court. La Eme, which start-

> > DIRECT LINE

Los Angeles, like many ma- have taken control of several of gang colours, loitering and hundred Hispanic street gangs,

levying "taxes" on drug sales. Fresh evidence of the gangs' criminal clout has driven new efforts in places like Pasadena, on the north-eastern edge of the city, where the Pasadena Denver Lanes gang, a Blood offshoot, until recently held sway. Local prosecutors sued and

won an injunction against 35 "PDL" members, naming them as a "public nuisance". It barred them from riding hikes, carrying pagers, cellular phones, and two way radios. Other injunctions have banned the wearing

T. T. K.

drinking in the street.

Earlier this autumn, three dozen members of the Lennox 13 gang in central Los Angeles were roused from their beds at 5am by police officers. Probahly expecting to be hauled off in handcuffs, they were served with a 400-sheet stack of legal documents. "They were dazed and confused," said Kevin Ross, the prosecutor who obtained an infunction in the Lennox case.

They understand what it is 10 be arrested for shooting someone. This was something they had no idea how to react to."

McDonald's

serves up

a slice

of history

Downey, California (AP) — Customers lined up before sun-

rise for the first burgers, fries

and shakes served by the newly restored, oldest McDonald's

The eatery - restored to its

original red and white tiles and

"Speedee" sign - was first opened on 18 August 1953, but was closed in 1994 because of

damage from an earthquake.

chef perched atop a 60-foot-tall

arch, was a source of civic pride

in the community 15 miles

southeast of Los Angeles. Pre-

servationists battled to save the

landmark, and the company

eventually gave in and drop- ped

thing for the community of

Downey and out of respect for

our heritage," said Jeff Schwartz, a regional vice pres-

preserve the stand gained steam in 1994, when the National

Trust for Historic Preservation

declared it one of the country's

11 most endangered landmarks

and "an authentic icon of con-

temporary American life."

ident for McDonald's Corp. Like the original, it has no indoor seating. There is outdoor seating for 100. A campaign to

We wanted to do the right

its plans to close il.

The neon Speedee, a smiling

restaurant in the world.

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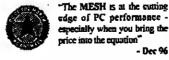
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Laurens van der Post was, above all, a path finder. Like his friend Carl Jung, with whom he was close from the late Forties until the Swiss psychiatrist died in 1961, he was an explorer of the world within and without. All those who really read van

der Post or came into contact with him can bear witness to his understanding, his generosity, his forgiveness, his unfailing love and friendship. He had not only a unique experience and flair, but also an extraordinary intuition, verging on clairvoyance, as well as a gift for empathy, an idealism, spirituality, passion and dash of romanticism. His life and his numerous activities on so many different levels spanned almost the whole of the 20th century and coincided with some of the most crucial events of our world history

He remained intellectually active right up until his death and will be remembered as probably the most popular Jun-gian thinker of his day, champion of the Kalahari bushmen and a philosopher who had considerable influence over the future King, Prince Charles, and enjoyed the rare confidence of Margaret Thatcher.

He had trust and faith in his fellow humans, he who had suffered so much and nearly died from torture or threats of execution at the hands of the Japanese soldiers in Java during the Pacific War. Above all he believed in the healing pow-ers of life and love and forgiveness (he always refused to participate in the proceedings of the Tokyo Tribunal at the end of the Second World War). As he often stressed, speaking of churches, parties and all dinosaurs, one should constantly try to forgive and to care as much for the sinner and the sinned against, the friend and partner as for the enemy. For it is the only way to beal, to make whole, to grow, to progress. The French grandmother of his father used to warn him: "Always remember. all men tend to become that which they oppose."

He explained the meaning he wanted to give his life in conversations with me recorded in A Walk with a White Bushman

I have tried to take no beed of the morrow - not in an irresponsible way but as an act of trust in a life given in trust. In that sense I go from day to day, and although I love the instant I have a sense of immense distance and a great open horizon in front of me. It seems that the footsteps are extremely important and that, if I look after the lootsteps, the miles will take care of themselves.

Van der Post's unique vision owed much to his upbringing. An Afrikaner, he was born on in South Africa, the 13th of 15 children. He was brought up by

a bush woman and lived an open-air life, sleeping outside in both summer and winter. His parents were away a great deal and his father, a local politician.

died when he was seven. These formative years perhaps help explain van der Post's lifelong desire to root himself in the African experience and to make the history of the aboriginal African not only his Own, but that of all mankind. "1 have not been to a continent or island from East to West," he said, "where I have not found that when men fall asleep something like the Bushman awakes and beckons him."

And van der Post was never prepared to limit his horizons merely to Afrikanerdom. The only one of the children not to go to university, he became the first Afrikaner journalist to rite for the Natal Advertiser in Durban, His first book, In A Province, though subsequently overshadowed by novels such as Alan Paton's Cry the Beloved Country, was the first written by a South African against racial prejudice.

By the time it was published in 1934, by Virginia Woolf, van der Post had already been married for six years to Marjorie Wendt, with whom he had two children but whom he later divorced in the aftermath of the Second World War, a harrowing period of his life. " I stank of war for so long," he said, that, like many men, I found it difficult to return to normal domestic life." He went on to marry the writer Ingaret Giffard

Van der Post had joined the British army in 1939 and was captured by the Japanese in Java in 1943. Held in a prisoner-of-war camp he was tortured and placed under constant threat of death. His knowledge of Eastern culture and of the Japanese language, acquired during the 1920s, probably saved him. On one occasion in the prison camp. when British prisoners of war were suffering a savage beating at the hands of their Japanese guards, it suddenly came to him that he should volunteer to be beaten twice. "It was as if I had become another person, he later wrote. "I hardly felt the kicks and blows." Presenting himself a second time so dis-



Sir Laurens van der Post

concerted the Japanese that

the beatings stopped. After the war, he served as an officer on the staff of Lord Mountbatten, favourite uncle to Prince Charles, whom van der Post eventually befriended. The importance of van der Post was marked by the fact that the Prince had organised a party at his Highgrove residence to celebrate his 90th birthday. The der Post's ill-health.

party was cancelled due to van To Prince Charles, this godfather to Prince William. His appeal to Margaret soldier/adventurer/philosopher

offered access to a vast array of the world's cultures. The South African's belief in Jung's theory of the collective subconscious, the communality that binds humans across cultural barriers, fired the Prince's interest in multi-culturalism and gave him a philosophical framework for his ideas, often ridiculed, ranging from farming to the need for modern Britain to embrace religions other than Christianity. Van der Post was

In India and the East the hant is a symbol of wisdom, of the triumph of co-operati etween the natural and the ed in man. In the ustamen's world it was not so. The elephant was to him what the one-eyed titans work to Odyssaus - Images of the exagation and excess from which his spirit had to free fixelf if were ever to become sym-etrical and whole. So he made The Heart of the Hunter, 1961; prisoner-of-war camp.
drawing by Meurice Wilson His role and place

Thatcher was also considerable. Van der Post was a thinker who not only remained handsome and entertaining in old age, but who espoused a libertarian philiosophy which was in keeping with the times. It placed the individual furnly centre-stage and was combined with a fierce suspicion of socialism, which left him hostile. even to the charms Nelson Mandela. In South Africa itself, van der Post's romantic attachment to the Zuhr warrior race led him to overlook the flaws of Chief Buthelezi whose

knighted in 1981. In all, he wrote 26 books, including The Heart of the Hunter (1961) and The Seed and the Sower (1963) and finished a volume of an autobiography earlier this year, The Admiral's Baby, which told of the 22 months he spent in Java after s release from the Japanese

virtues be preached to Mrs

Thatcher. Van der Post was

even if he was familiar with the corridors of power, were, however, one of self-employment. In his pursuit of always changing and elusive horizons, van der Post never put a limit to his efforts. Death for him, as an African, a believer in God (not the god of churches, but of the Bible) and a zen-infused samurai was only the falling of a cherry blossom or a feather. Talking about death, he said:

*People who were close to me and have died, come closer. I feel there, near, all the time. It is this clear and orgent feeling of nearness which I find so convincing. I do not think they could not possibly understand the language of reality beyond death, they can only communicate this nearness, and I

I remember our final meeting. As usual, there was the fragrance of the bouquet of ecsias in his study, as well as the friendly beckoning of the 'myths such as Odysseus or the dissolved), 1949 Ingaret Giffard;

hands, and the blue-eyed stare which meant, as usual again, "an-revoir". Then I closed the door on him and his "space ship" - as I used to call his flat in Chelsea. I was not aware then that he was going to pursue, all by himself, his never-ending

and then our farewell, hands in

travel and quest, Indeed, Laurens van der Post always recommended that we should never cease to obey and follow the pattern set by the great

were to ensure our survival. In this painful search for greater meaning we, like the vanishing Bedouins, Bushmen or Tibetans, must find a new home in this Wasteland we so cieverly created.

abour

It was Africa which played the greatest role on the mind. heart and imagination of van der Post, so much so that it drew him "deeper into a pattern that was the antithesis of Europe and to a significant extent made him uniquely of the earth and spirit of Africa".

Van der Post was, like Conrad's Lord Jim - really "one of us". His whole life and works are a testimony to the "honour of the house" and the fortitude of man. Laurens van der Post not only told stories, wonderful stories of all kinds, but he has "grown" stories which nourish and help to heal and dream. Patiently, courageously, because he knews the needs, rhythms and seasons of the earth as well as of humans, the author planted seeds into our wasteland and our parched souls while giving us a few hints in order to help us to do our little human business a little better. Again and again he invited us to dare to make the very first little step of the great journey under the guidance of, let's say, an elephant, a baboon, a rhinoceros, a whale, a mantis, the Bushman, or simply by following a dream of something we otherwise

tended to forget or neglect.
All his family members and friends have one certainty at heart - that Sir Laurens, before going back to light, and, like the hunter in the Bushman story, grasped, at last, one feather of the Great White Bird of truth in his outworn fingers.

Jean-Marc Pottiez

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Laurens Jan van der Post, writer, farmer, soldier, explorer, conser vationist born Philippolis, South Africa 13 December 1906; CBE 1947; Kt 1981: books includes In a Province 1934, Venture to the Interior 1952, A Bar of Shadow 1952, The Pace Beside the First 1953, Flamingo Feather 1955 The Dark Eye in Africa 1955, Creative Pattern in Primitive Man 1956, The Lost World of the Kalahari 1958, The Heart of the Hunter 1961, The Seed and the Sower 1963, Journey into Russia 1964. A Portrait of all the Russias 1967, The Hunter and the Whale 1967, A Portrait of Japan 1968. The Night of the New Moon 1970, A Story like the Wind 1972, A Par Off Place 1974, A Mantis Carol 1975, Jung and the Story of Our Time 1976. First Catch Your Eland 1977, Yet Being Someone Other 1982. The Voice of the Thunder 1993; married 1928 Marjorie Wendt (died 1995; one daughter, and one son deceased; marriage His role and place in life, mantis - the Bushman god - quest for the Holy Grail if we died London 15 December 1996.

Wilf Carter

Wilf Carter, aka Montana Slim, was one of the last surviving links with the early giants of country music. A native of Neva Scotia, he worked with Jimmie Rodgers and the legendary Carter Family, with Bradley Kineaid and Goebel Reeves, and became, over a tel year career, a Canadian institution.

Montana Sim, the sobriquet by which Americans knew him, came courtesy of a radio lawyer named Becker, Carter was working for CTS at the time and when one day called into Becker's office was told that whilst the show was fine his name

would have to go. Asked if he had ever been to Montana, he replied in the affirmative. "Well, you're long, tall and skinny, how about Montana Slim?" was the response, and it stuck.

Unusually for a country musician, Carter actually spent part of his early life as n cowboy. Whilst still in his teens he headed for Calgary, working the prairie farms before moving on and hoboing along the Ca-nadian-Pacific railroad. He then became a brong' buster in the roden before being hired by the Brewster Transport Co as an entertainer for its early "dude ranches". Whilst on the trail he

would practise his yodelling

technique in the canyons.

Carter had been fascinated by yodelling as a child. At the age of 12 he saw a performance by an emertainer known as "The Yodelling Fool" in a revue based

Gregory VIII, 1187; Simon Bolivar,

English-Speaking Union

The following appointments have

Speaking Union:

South American patricy, 1830; Kas-

on Uncle Tom's Cahin and was hooked. His later advocacy of the form would prove one of his most important legacies, influ-encing, among others, Slim Whitman and Riders in the Sky. In 1933, whilst en name to New York where he was to join a liner as an on-board entertainer. Carter stopped off at Montreal to audition for RCA Victor. In a disused church on Lenoir

Street, he cut the self-penned My Swiss Mountain Lullaby - its famous echo courtesy of an upturned bathtub - and "The Capture of Albert Johnson", a vivid retelling of the hunt for a mountie-killer.

On its release, "Lullaby" blossomed into the first major Canadian country hit and as a result in 1934 Carter cut a further 36 tracks for the label including the first song he ever wrote, "I Long For Old Wyoming", and the topical "The Life and Death of John Dillinger". By 1938 he had 120 sides to his credit.

By now a star on the CBS ra-

dio network Carter's records began also to sell well internationally, particularly in Australia where his popularity proved pivotal to its fledgling country music industry. Several years later, he acknowledged this by cutting an album for RCA entilted Wilf Carter Sings

The Songs of Australia. A serious automobile accident on 30 April 1940 was to prove a major setback, the severity of his injuries necessitating a nine-year hiatus from touring. When he hit the road again, it was in the company of his daughters and he was grat-ified to find that he could still

The Warsaw Convention pro-

vided the exclusive cause of

action and sole remedy for a

passenger who claimed against

an air carrier for loss, injury

and damage sustained in the

course of, or arising out of,

international carriage by air.
The House of Lords dis-

missed two appeals by passen-

gers seeking to claim damages

at common law against British

Airways for physical and psy-chological injuries arising out

of their captivity by Iraqi forces during a refuelling stop at

Knwait shortly after the com-mencement of the Gulf War on

draw large crowds, at least in his homeland.

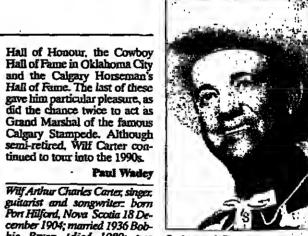
Carter recorded prolifically over the years and much of his work has been reissued on CD. With Victor until 1954, he spent five years at Decca under the Nastwille recording pioneer Paul Cohen, before returning to the RCA fold and later still cutting a couple of albums for Starday.

The composer of some 500plus songs including "There's a Love Knot in my Lariat" and "Bluebird On Your Window Sill", in 1971 he was elected to the Nashville Songwriters' Hall of Fame. He was also a member of the Canadian Country Music zona 5 December 1996.

Hall of Fame. The last of these gave him particular pleasure, as did the chance twice to act as Grand Marshal of the famous Calgary Stampede. Although semi-retired. Will Carter continued to tour into the 1990s

· Paul Wadey

Wilf Arthur Charles Carter, singer, guitarist and songwiter born Pon Hilford, Nova Scotia 18 December 1904: married 1936 Robbie Bryan (died 1989; two daughters); died Scottsdale, Ari-



Photograph: British Archive of in Country Music

Amountequents for Gazetic BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & LIFATHS IBIRTHS, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial verview, Vedding semi-tersacies, In Versurians: about the sent in writing Victorians absold by sent in writing to the Gamete Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Conary Whorf, London F14 SDL, telephoned to 6171-293 2011 conserving machine 6171-293 2012 or fixed to 6171-293 2019, and are charged at fa.50 a line IVAT extra. OF BLE Gazette automacements must be submitted by writing tor faveds and are charged at £16 a line, VAT extra. They should be accumumated by a day-time telephone number.

Lectures

National Gallery: Lynda Stephens, Cruct Cuts (iii): Judith and Histofernes", Ipm. lesses and Albert Mus Lautes, "Faience", 2.50pm. Tate Gallery: Justine Hopkins, "Visions of the Real World (i); the

Pre-Raphaelites", 1pm. British Museum: Burbara Brend, "Islamic Architecture in Hukhara and Samarkand, 1.15pm.

National Portrait Gallery: Alfred Barnes and Susan Morris, "An 18thcentury Collation: words of wit and wisdom 1.10mm

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS INCO A L. ESPALAM (EDITES) TO THE Prince Rough, Patron. College of Champa-tone Prince Rough, Patron. College of Champa-tone Princepole, open the new temperatural Thangs, Justines at the Manades Unique L. College, and J. College, and Champathan and College, and Co

Birthdays

Mr Simon Bates, disc jockey, 44; Mr Peter Blackburn, chairman and chief recutive. Nestle UK, 56; Dame Mary Cartwright, mathematician, 96, Mr Christopher Cazenove, actor, 51; Viscount Daventry, Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire, 75; Lard de Villiers, barrister, 85; Lord Glenamara, former government min-ister, 84; Mr Brian Hayes, radio pre-senter, 59; Mr Bernard Hill, actor, 52; The Hon Dominic Lawson, Editor, Sunday Telegraph, 40; Mr Kerry Packer, chairman, Consolidated Press Holdings, 59; Sir Leonard Peach, chairman, Police Complaints Authority, 64: Mr Robert Robinson. hroadcaster and writer, 69; Mr David Smith, Headmaster, Bradford Grammar School, 62; Mr Tommy Steele. sunger and actor, 60; Professor William Stewart, former Vice-Chancellor of Keele University, 81; Mr Cecii Walker MP, 72.

Anniversaries

Chatelet, writer, 1700; Jean-Baptiste Girard, priest and educator, 1765; Ludwig van Beethoven, composer, baptised 1770; François-Marius Granet, painter, 1777; Sir Humohry Dayy, chemist and inventor, 1778, Sir George Hayter, painter. 1792; Jules-Altred Hoot de Goncourt, novelist and historian, t830; Ford Madox Ford (Ford Her-

par Hauser, the founding wild boy of Nuremberg, 1833, Rear Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort, hydrographer, 185"; Louis-Marie Alphonse Daudet, novelist, 1897; Baron Fer-dinand James de Rothschild, banker, 1998; Bernard Quaritch, bookseller, 1899; Sir William Thomson, first Baron Kekin of Large physicist, 1917; Elizabeth Garrett Anderson. physician, 1917. Peter Philip Hesel-ine Warlock, composer and editor, committed suicide 1930, Harold Ed-ward Holt, Australian statesman, driwned 1967: Dana Andrews (Carver Daniel Andrews), actor, 1992. On this day: Drake's ship The Pelicum (af-terwards called The Golden Hand) sailed out of Plymouth on a round the-world voyage, 1577; the Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, Londen, opened, 1888, the first radio message was sent across the Atlantic. 1902; the Wright brothers made their first (light at Kirry Hawk, North Carolina, 1903; following a blizzard, New York received 27 inches of Births: Gabrielle-Emilie Le Ton-nelier de Bretevil, Marquise du snew, 1947; due to the closing of the Strez Canal, petrol rationing was im-

posed in Britain, 1956. Today is the Feast Day of St Begga, St Lazarus, St Olympias, St Sturmi and St Wiv-

mann Hueffer), novelist, 1873; Er-skine Preston Caldwell, novelist, 1903; Walter Greenwood, novelist and playwright, 1903; Stanley Ray-mond (Ray) Noble, composer and conductor, 1903; Willard Frank Lib-by, chemist, 1908. Deaths: Pope

surer of Lincoln's Inn.

Church appointments The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev David Ampe. Vicar, Levion. St Mary with St Edward and St Luke, and Rural Deals of Walthant Forest (Chelumbord): to be also a Non-Rendentiny Canron of Chelumford

foreign: In see John Recore, Westerrough, (Guildhard).
Prebendary Jeanne Summers, Priest-in-charge. St Mary, Marthen with Amberting, and Wite-stott in be also Priest-in-charge, St Andrew, Moretur-on-Lugg, and continue as Rural Dean of Herctord Rural Deanney (Herctord).
The Rev John Theobald, Chaplain of HM Prison, Armiey, to be Vicar, Leob St Cyprism, Harchills (Report).
The Rev Nicholas, Varion, Curate, Poncipudd (Liandail) to be Priest-in-charge. St Nicholas, Stottolas, St Michael, Strindinger, St Barthofence, Westhale (Herctord).

Appointments

Mr Harman John Leslie, to be a Queen's Bench Master of the Supreme Court, Queen's Bench Di-Cel David H. Hills, to be Under Trea-

Mary (Loicester).
The Ren Care Puters, Assistant Corate, Christ Chards, Epsons to be Joans Vieer, Westwoogsh (Goddford).
The Ren Condition Rend, Rem Vieur, Westwoogsh in the John Render, Westwoogsh (Goddford).

been announced by the English-Henrian Treasurer, Mr Christophe McMen Tary Tecasurer: Mr Christopher McLarin Gewerners (Lad) Dean Mis Verniers (Gewerner Lad) Dean Mis Verniers (Thamesical). Mr John Googht Mess Victiona Lopge-Bourher, Admirat Sir Richard Thomas. Mr Grant Carson. Mr Robin

Sir Richard Lace, to be Governor of

Abnett (knowa as Sykes) v British Airways pic, Sidhu and others v British Airways pic; House of Lords (Lord Browne-Wilkinson Lord Jauncey of Tellichettle, Lord Mustill, Lord Steyn, Lord Hope of Craighead) 12 December 1996

a New-Rendentiny Canno of Chelandord Cathedral.

The Rev David Cawley, Visia, St Mary de Casto, Leucester, Chaplain of Trinity Hospital, Leucester and the Sovereign's Penacher at the Newarks, to be also Manster with special pattern requestivity for St Nacholas Chiefe, and Hospital's Team Visia within the Holy Spirit Lean Ministry, Leucester (Leicester). The Rev Charles Lewrence, formerly Vical, Saddisworth (Monchester) to be Vicar, Edingham with Little Bookham (Goddiord). The Rev Draid Newman, Vicar, Octobrevi, and Borrowach (Derby): to be Team Rector, Leighborrough Emmanuel and Nampentan St Mary (Leicester).

The Rev Clive Putter, Assistant Critate,

2 August 1990. The passengers had been on a scheduled flight, BA149, from London to Kunia Lumpur by way of Kuwait and Madras It was said that BA should have known its passengers would be at severe risk if the aircraft

were to land in Knwait after hostilities had begun. The passengers' actions against BA had been dismissed

Passengers held by Iraqis cannot sue BA

LAW REPORT

damages for personal injuries arising from an international flight could only be pursued in-der the Warsaw Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules relating to International Carriage by Air, as amended at The Hague in 1955, and scheduled to the Carriage by Air Act 196L and the view was taken that under article 17 of that Con-

vention they had no remedy. Article 17 provides: The carrier is liable for damage sustained in the event of the death or wounding ... or any other bodily in-just suffered by a passenger, if the societal which caused the damage took place on board the aircraft or in the course of any of the operations

of embarking or disembarking.
In the Scottish appeal the pursuer, Judith Helen Abnett (known as Sykes) appealed against a decision of an Extra Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session (1996 SLT 529) upholding a decision of Lord Ordinary, Lord Marnoch, on 20 December 1993, dismissing the pursuer's claim for damages for breach of an implied term of her contract

on the ground that claims for reasonable care for her safety. In the English appeal the plaintiffs, Kiran Sidhu, Harjinder Sidbu and Ravinder Sidhu, appealed against the de-cision of the Court of Appeal on 27 January 1995, affirming a decision of Judge Marcus Ed-

> BA's negligence. In the Scottish appeal: C.N. McEach-non QC and Peter Macdonald (Pattinson & Brewer) for Abnett, DRA Emslie QC and M.L.B.G. Gilmore (Beaumont & Son) for B.4. In the English appeal: Clive Nicholls QC and Tim Kerr (Raja & Pas) for the Sidhus: Robert Webb QC and Philip

Shepherd (Beaumont & Sons) for BA.

wards at Brentford County

Court, dismissing their claim for

loss and damage caused by

Lord Hope said the Convention should be given a purposive construction. What it sought to achieve was a uniform international code, which could be applied by the courts of the contracting states without reference to the rules of their own domestic law. In the areas with which the Convention dealt, one of which was the liability with BA that it would take of the carrier, the code was in-

tended to be uniform and also to be exclusive of any resort #9

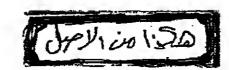
Any person was free unless restrained by statute, to enter into a contract with another on the basis that his liability in danages was excluded or limited if he was in breach of contract. Exclusion and limitation clauses were a common feature of commercial contracts, and contracts

of carriage were no exception: It was against that background that the Convention was to be judged. It was not designed to provide remedies against the carrier to compensate all losses. It was designed instead to define those situations in which compensation was to be available. So it set out the limits of liability and the conditions under which claims to establish that liability, if disputed, were to be made. A balance was struck in the interest

of certainty and uniformity. Therefore any remedy not provided by the Conventida was excluded. Domestic courts were not free to provide a reit. edy according to their own law. because that would undermine the Convention and distort the

Paul Magrath, Barristes

operation of the whole scheme



Labour should learn the cross-party lesson

band as a "frothing, rabid dog" And not everyone's husband would respond on another channel: "I went home and bit her." But there are very few couples like Mary Matalin and James Carville, whose marriage is a public symbol of the hipartisanship of Bill Clinton's second administration. Mr Carville is the "ragin' Cajun" who ran Mr Clinton's first campaign for the presidency, and who is now running a vendetta on the President's behalf against the special prosecutor in the Whitewater affair, Kenneth Starr. Ms Matalin was one of George Bush's 1992 campaign team, and is now a regular Republican media commentator. They fell in love while taking chunks out of each other in the heat of political battle, and continue to do so in public in one of Washington's most entertaining vaudeville acts.

For Mary and Jim, political insults are terms of endearment. Their political differences are not deep, or serious, or ideological. They care deeply about the ends of politics, but for them the argu-Sing him a mad canine was a public display of affection. With the exception of the religious right, which turned out to be very much a minority force in this year's presidential election, this reflects the state of American politics.

ment about the means is a game. Call-

Bipartisanship is the watchword of the

ot everyone would go on tele-vision to denounce their hus-vision to denounce their hus-Cohen as Secretary of Defence - the first time a top cabinet job has been given to someone from the opposing party for 25 years. The appointment of the hawkish Madeleine Albright as the first woman Secretary of State broke a different precedent, but was also in line with the centrist approach. She has courted Republican opinion with her attacks on the United Nations leadership.

Last week the President set out his strategy for the next four years, declaring that the centre "can hold, has held, and the American people are asking it to continue to hold. In part, this is simply an acknowledgement of the realities of Washington politics. Mr Clinton faces a Republican majority in both Houses of Congress and, in any case, nothing can get through without bipartisan agreement, because of the 60-vote majority required in the Senate to carry the guillotine and prevent bills being talked out. In part, it is because Mr Clinton falls into the "healer" category of politician, rather than the "warrior" category. He did better when Congress was against him, after the 1994 mid-term Republican landslide, than before.

Bipartisanship was also central to the President's re-election. The strategy, called "triangulation" by his advisers, was to position him above and between the Democratic and Republican parties. Now his hopes of significant



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the success of the same strategy in office. If he is to achieve his historic goal of cutting the welfare budget to balance the books by 2002, he will need Republican support.

Is this a principle that should apply beyond the United States? We ask only because of the impending visit to Tony Blair's war room of George Stephanopoulos, one of Mr Carville's associates who spent the past four years next door to the Oval Office as the President's senior adviser. Mr Stephanopoulos, 35, bas a reputation as a liberal, although he is famous for the observation that you

reform in his second term depend on can never be too right wing in an election campaign. That seems to be a lesson Mr Blair has already taken to heart. He intends to fight the election as leader of the party of the "radical centre", and often refers to the fact that his views on Europe are identical to those

of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor. More than that, he bas stolen the Conservative "One Nation" label and says he hopes "many" on the Tory benches would support the policies of a new Labour government. Even if the Liberal Democrats' claim that 12 Tory MPs would defect if a Euro-sceptic became Tory leader after the election is

mischief-making, it is certainly true that there will be about 60 Tories prepared to vote with the Liberal Democrats and a Labour government on Europe.

This is Mr Blair's tripartisan approach, and it offers the prospect of a realignment of British politics along pro- and anti-European lines. It goes without saying that the parallels with American politics are not exact. Europe represents an ideological divide in our politics, even a schism of national identity, of the kind which is largely absent on the other side of the Atlantic. The Europhobes are more powerful than the religious right in America, although they could marginalise themselves by driving their programme towards British withdrawal from the

European Union.
The British political system, lacking the institutional checks and balances of the American Constitution, does not require cross-party consensus to drive forward a blueprint for reform - as Margaret Thatcher proved. But there is now a pro-European majority in the House of Commons which is likely to be significantly larger after the election, despite an overwhelming press bias against it. And Mr Blair accepts the argument that ambitious reforms, such as those planned and hinted at for our constitution and welfare system, will be better designed and longer lasting if they command cross-party support. Last time, with Mr Clinton's diver-

sion into gays in the military and the failure of his health care reforms, the US President offered Labour negative lessons in how to assume the responsibilities of office. This time, he seems to offer a much more positive model. Listen out for a spokesman for Mr Blair describing Kenneth Clarke affectionately as a frothing, rabid dog.

Where to next, Madonna?

The critics say Eva Peron is the role Madonna was born to play, the rags to riches tale of a ferociously ambitious Catbolic girl who fought her way to fame and fortune, addicted to public attention and glamour. But surely there are still hundreds of personas for the queen of reincarnation to play. Her six lives so far - teen idol, Marilyn, material girl, sex machine, mother, Evita -have all been been crammed into the time most of us take to work out how you pay a mortgage. Clearly the trick is to come up with roles that end in an A, such as Madonna (as in "and child"). For example, Delilah bas disaster written all over it. but Evita and Cruclla (as in De Vil) are guaranteed success. So where to now, Ms Ciccone? Hedda (as in Gabler)? Maria (as in Von Trapp)? The world's your oysta.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Seeds of peril in genetically altered food

Sir: Following Nicholas Schoon's article "Nothing to fear from techno-corn" (11 December), I would like to express my concern over the "wholesome meal" that he believes genetically engineered ricod represents.
First, the destructive

possibilities of GE food go well beyond the "dozens, perhaps bundreds" of lives lost that he predicts. Beyond the danger of a crop "taking on an uncontrollable life of its own", we contend with dangers from:

Allergies (where an individual allergic to peanuts, for example, could suffer fatal shock in reaction to a beanut gene engineered into an unrelated foodstuff);

Antibiouc resistance: the process of altering DNA often requires the introduction of genes that protect against antibiotics, which could recombine with bacteria in the human stomach - a good way 10 encourage "superbugs" that infect humans but are immune to antibiotic treatment;

The possibility of epidemics, which gather strength in transferring between species. In a worst-case scenario, which may not he likely but which is certainly possible, "buman survival would he marginal" (Cummins, the University of West Ontario.

If all of these risks were necessary to avert famine and produce major benefits to the population, perhaps they would be tolerable - however, "for food-altered patents, 98 per cent of genetic alterations are done to make food production and processing easier and more profitable for the companies doing it. Only 2 per cent are aimed at improved taste and nutrition" (the Council for Responsible

Genetics).
Forcing GE food on us is not merely "regrettable", but criminally irresponsible. BEN MORAN London SW17

Sir: The Liberal Democrats are keen to embrace new and appropriate technology ("Nothing in fear from techno-corn", 11 December). However, we take issue with the assertion that "if a technology turns out to be a loser, we are also capable of rejecting it."
When manipulating genetic
structures it is not always possible to turn back the clock. This requires that we have stringent regulation in place.

Public unease can only increase when faced with the apparent ahility of multinational food and chemical companies to foreclose the options even before governments and their regulatory authorities are aware of the possible long-term implications. This is a classic case of the public watchdogs noticing the empty stable only once the horse has long since bolted.

Furthermore, without separate supply mechanisms by which the genetically modified product is distinguishable, how is it possible to trace the source of any potential problem? Such a system also makes comprehensive labelling a more viable option. Linked to this is the need for investment in research and monitoring of the long-term effects of genetically manipulated

On an issue as fundamental as the food we can the consumer



deserves a cautious and considered approach - not one driven by commercial interests alone. MATTHEW TAYLOR MP (Truro, Lib Dem) Liberal Democrat Environment

Spokesperson PAUL TYLER MP (North Cornwall, Lib Dem) Liberal Democrat Agriculture and Rural Affairs Spokesperson House of Commons

London SW1

Sir: Genetically engineered soya is a major concern to many. Vegans and vegetarians will no doubt suffer more than most, as soya is probably the most used substitute for meat, milk and butter.

It is difficult enough for those of us who bave decided to cross from vegetarianism to veganism after the latest worries over BSE and CID. Now our choices will be limited even more with the news that this imported soya will not be labelled. A PANTELI Southampton

Nation poorer with student fees

Sir: David Walker argues that "students must pay for their privileges" (12 December) by paying fees for higher education.

Graduates who go on to earn higher incomes will contribute more to the educational budget in higher taxation; there is no need in addition to burden young people just starting out on their careers with crippling loans.
It is important that a proportion

of high-quality graduates should go into less well paid, vocational

public sector jobs such as nursing, eaching or local government. Not all students should be forced to pursue degrees such as

medicine, law or engineering which lead directly to specified employment. Finally, students from poorer

backgrounds will think twice before applying to higher education.

The effect of his proposals will

be to produce a workforce of trained (rather than educated) middle-class automatons, whose only interest is to seek a job in the financial sector in order to repay their debts, and the country will be the poorer for it. Tax, when used to provide equitable access to education based on merit alone, universal health care or affordable public transport is not an evil but a good and noble thing. This seems to be an unutterable truth at

Dr DAVID OLIVER Sevenoaks, Kent

Harrods chief willing to swear

Sir: In his piece analysing the effects of the Willetts affair ("Selfregulation scores a victory in the House", 12 December) Donald Macintyre quotes some unnamed Tories.

According to him, they were quietly pointing out that the recommendation that witnesses before the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee should

in future give evidence under oath would constrain me if and when l was called to give evidence on the 'cash for questions" affair. This is an unworthy suggestion and gives a completely wrong reading of the situation.

I have nothing to fear about giving evidence under oath -quite the contrary. I bave told the truth

throughout.
I shall continue to tell the truth to the committee or Sir Gordon Downey or tn anyone who is prepared to investigate with vigour the political conspiracy of which I have been the victim. Perhaps that is the real reason those Tory MPs are quiet. M AL FAYED

Chairman, Harrods London SWI

Aids research short of funds

Sir: Jack O'Sullivan ("A new stonewall", 11 December) reported that right-wing campaigners are claiming that too much money is being spent on Aids, but did not examine the distorted basis of those claims.

Gordon McVie of the Cancer Research Campaign was quoted as saying that the Government spends £14ma year on Aids research but only £15m on research into cancer, which causes many more deaths. However, cancer studies are underpinned by a further £163m for more basic research. Charities contribute well over £100m for

cancer research on top of this public funding, but there is almost no charitable money for research into HIV/Aids. HILARY CURTIS

Hypocrisy over

to the Government, around 1 millinn ecstasy tablets are sold

every week, and there have been 100 ecstasy related deaths in the

past eight years. If the same sales figures can be applied back over

those eight years, I make that roughly 400 million tablets

consumed, I death for every 4

million pills. All of these deaths

figure compare with the number of deaths caused by tobacco, or

The London Drug Policy Forum are to be congramlated for their sensible proposals, but what is

effective as the laws against alcohol in the US in the Twenties, and just

as hypocritical: is there any possible justification for drugs such as

cannabis and ecstasy to be illegal

legal but provide huge amounts of

when other drugs, notably

revenue for the Treasury?

SIMON EVERETT

Reading, Berkshire

DTPD O DAVIES

Liverpool

Consultant Physician

were tragic, hut how does this

alcohol, or cars?

really needed is for the

Government to rethink drugs

policy. Current policies are as

Sir: Your article on eestasy and club culture (11 December) contained some interesting figures. According

drug dangers

Executive Director, British Medical Association Foundation for Aids

Sir: Jack O'Sullivan rightly describes dangers of a right-wing backlash against gay-run Aids service organisations. The current euphoria about recent developments in Aids treatments is premature, because nobody knows what the long-term effects of the new drug combinations will be. Nobody knows what to do about the many people for whom these drugs don't work at all.

Further, the bitter truth is that those in developing countries who make up the vast majority of people with Aids have no access to potentially life-saving treatments because they can't afford them.

It is very disturbing that so little attention is paid to this problem by Western Aids service organisations. UDO SCHUKLENK Lecturer in Applied Ethics University of Central Lancashire

Dollar puzzle

Sir: So, it's to be E for the curo (report, 12 December), just as it's ¥ for the yen and £ (Libra) for the pound. But why \$ for the dollar? Dr J KEITH ELLIOTT Department of Theology University of Leeds

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk). E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

TV censors on the march

Sir: I am the father of a two-yearold daughter and I too am worried about violence on TV ("Why EastEnders is scarier than Tarantino", 13 December), but 1 am more worried about where it will be in 20 years' time.

I can't help feeling that my daughter will be deprived of the works of such writers as Dennis Potter, Jimmy McGovern and Alan Bleasdale. And where will it stop? In the last few years we bave already seen this moral minority try to ban films by Martin Scorsese, Oliver Stone and David

Cronenberg. Will it be books next? Violence has always been part of society. After all it is the Bayeux Tapestry that tells of the Norman conquest, not the Normans going out to conquer because they were watching too much tapestry. MATTHEW WEBB Eastling, Kent

Sir: The debate about violence on TV centres on observance of the 9pm watershed and on children's welfare. I am a normal adult woman who has difficulty finding anything I feel comfortable watching after 9pm. The constant diet of doom, gloom and violence, whatever the quality of the drama, is depressing. Never mind the children, what about me? Mrs LOIS BURKE Teddington, Middlesex

Diatribes or true Christianity

Sir: I commend Polly Toynbee's caustic advice ("Just say No to this agonising aunt", 9 December), in reference to the appointment by The Daily Telegraph of Anne Atkins as its first agony aunt. Priestley's accompanying cartoon bore sufficient testimony to the direction

in which right-wing, quasi-Christian morality is heading in this country. By contrast, the former Archbishop of York, Lord Habgood. in his final address to the General Synod in July 1995, described a Church "which is willing to operate within many of the assumptions of its surrounding culture, and wants to stand alongside puzzled people at all levels of society, as they try to make sense nf their lives and esponsibilities".

The diatribes of the Ann: Atkinses, William Oddies, and Mary Kennys of this world will ensure that morality remains what Oscar Wilde described as "an attitude one adopts towards people one doesn't like".

There was nnce a radical liberal who rode roughshod over the venerable regulations of bis day and exploded the prejudices of religious leaders and moralists because he wanted to set people free. His name was Jesus Christ. The Rev MICHAEL HAMPEL Spennymoor, Co Durham

Unfair to fake fur

Sir: I was delighted to hear of the cigarettes and alcohol, are not only new anti-fur initiative by Respect for Animals (report, 14 December). I would be very sorry to be seen dead wearing fur. But could activists please ask Sir: I look forward to the campaign sympathisers to be careful before of the Health Education Authority attacking in public women who to reduce smoking in young women (report, 12 December). Perhaps you could make a start by depicting your supermodel columnists, Jo merely appear to be wearing fur? I have been the object of invective, and have even been spat at, for wearing my fake fur, when I have Brand and Bridget Jones, without a cigarette between their fingers. forgotten to wear my People for Ethical Treatment of Animals antifur badge. JULIA PARKER London W14

We laugh at the silliness of Hollywood's image of Britain, with its singing chimneysweeps and raccoon-infested countryside. But, argues Peter Popham, we are also uncomfortable to find ourselves cast in roles we once gave to the peoples of the Empire London goes to the dogs, courtesy of Hollywood: '101 Dalmations'

ith the liveaction remake of 101 Dalmatians now on release, and the original 1961 cartoon on sale as a video, we are free to observe at leisure the persistence of a strange American, and specifically Walt Disney, obsession with England, or with a sort of England. And to chuckle, preen or retch, accord-

To walk into a cinema off the London streets and watch any of Disney's depictions of our capital city is a peculiar experience. St Paul's may find itself on the opposite side of the river from the West End, whose neon goes on and on: Big Ben becomes the last stop before Never-Never Land and (in the new Dalmatians) Knightsbridge borders directly on to the

London does not always suffer in heing re-imagined this way. Anthony Lane in *The New* Yorker says that the London of the new Dalmatians film is "horribly damp and dull", but that this "could be excused as hyperrealism". In the nriginal, 1961 animated version, how-ever, set, like Dodie Smith's hook, in the environs of Regent's Park, the artists responsible had no time for Sir John Nasb's creamy neoclassicism - too much like Washington DC, perhaps - but instead took the rather grave, ornate style found in Wimpole Street and New Cavendish Street and gave it an enlivening. Parisian twist, arguably an improvement. Only when Roger and Anita get married and settle down do the artists stumble into cliché, squashing them into a tumbledown cottage that would be more at home in a Grimm's fairytale. A first-time-buyer's flat must be

hard to Disney-fy.
Out in the countryside it's harder to go wrong; as long as the landscape has a bit of a roll to it, and is dotted at intervals with hedges, stiles, rivers and rustic stone bridges, it says England to most people, including most of us. Director Stepheo Herek has contrived to commit spectacular and gratuitous solecisms by the inclusion of such non-native species as skunk and raccoon, for the sake of a few off-colour jokes. mous geneticist in the new, Though in the age of the Beast abysmal remake of The Island of Bodmin, most things are

But of course the Disney vision of England doesn't stop at the scenery. Most of the people in this sort-of England are sort-of English. And like the architecture and the animal

life, they go through some weird changes in their journey through the Disney brain.

One has grown accustomed to the fact that when Holly-wood wants to tell audiences that so-and-so is a truly bad person, a mouster of egotism, a little shit, a grasping pseud with paedophile tendencies, the quickest way to do it, besides giving him a moustache and a 50-a-day cigarette hahit, is by using a fairly fruity British accent: clock Marlon Brando, for example, as the mad, eponyof Dr Moreau, with his preposterous Etonian twang.

There is a simple explanation for this: Wasps (White Anglo-Saxon Protestants), because of their historic privileges and snobberies, are the only ethnic instance. The original story is by group in America who are Kipling and India was once

always fair game for a good kicking; and the Waspiest of the lot, with the added advantage of being the old oppressor, are the Brits. Nothing can provoke the average American to like British toffspeak. "I don't believe the British accent is really an accent at all," as one American put it. "It's just a conspiracy to make the rest of the world feel bad." One of the many refreshing things about Toy Story is that Mr Potato Head (the bad guy) talks nei-ther like Neville Chamberlain nor Reggie Kray. He's just another American.

But watch Disney closely, ideally over and over again on video in the company of an addicted small child, and you realize it's not that simple. Take a film like Jungle Book, for

part of the British Empire, but there is oo overpowering reason why the creatures of the jungle should speak like Brits. Yet most of them do: not only the arch-villain, Shere Khan the tiger, with the most splendidly resonant growl in film, but most of the other animals as well. There is the leader of the wolves, who demands that Mowgli be sent back to the man village, the militaristic elephanis, the black panther, the vultures who befriend Mowgli and who lonk a hit like The Beatles and mangle Liverpudlian horribly.

This leaves only two main characters to talk like honestto-goodness Americans: Baloo the bear ("that shiftless, goodfor-nothing jungle hum", as the panther describes him) and Mowgli himself, the two characters who epitomise spontancity, irresponsibility and

It's a similar story in Peter Pan: all the figures both of evil and of maturity and authority use Britspeak: not only Hook but also Mr and Mrs Darling, Wendy, and her pompous brother, John. Only the wild and the free are exempt: the baby, Michael, and Peter himself. In the cartoon of Dalmatians, only the baby puppies talk

Watching Disney's depictions of England and Englishness as an English person oneself is not totally unlike being an Indian or

Arab or Chinese looking at 19th-century orientalist paintings or reading the orientallyhased fiction of Conrad or Stevensoo: there is the disturbing sense of being objectified, of being depicted in a way that, while apparently flattering and in some ways even observant, robs one of humanity and authenticity and autonomy, and makes one an ornament in a depiction of the world by those who are more powerful than

It is a version of the orien- some as the cockney chimney-

talist perspective described and attacked nearly 20 years ago by Edward Said in his book Orientalism - the irony being that the British, in their imperial heyday, were the masters of this orientalist fallacy. Now it is being done to us. But there is a difference. The sentimental visioo of England incarnate in films like Dalmatians and Mary Poppins is one which we, too, have invested in. Dick Van Dyke

may be intolerable and loath-

melt our hearts: the ranks of London chimney pots silhouetted against the sky, the apple-pic order of an old-fashioned house with big dogs and blazing fires and north-country staff in starched aprons and caps; the immemorial scenery of Big Ben and double-deckers, the rolling hills and thatched cottages, the overwhelming sense

> regulated hierarchy temporarily disrupted for the purposes of the plot, but happily resumed once the villains have been defeated.

of a cosy, comfortable, well-

sweep, but much else in the

Disney vision has the power to

American audiences are hesotted with this sort of nonsense, to the extent of allowing American characters, with their modern, sponta-neous, anti-hierarchical temperaments. practically to be writien out of the scripts. But it's no good sneering, evidence of our own infatuation with such imagery is no farther away than the nearest newsagent, where the cover of the Christmas number of Counmy Life, for example, is an engraving of a one under snow-covered village replete with happy, to curdle.

Joely Richardson as Anita in the new film version of

sledging children but lacking anything such as a car or a tele-vision aerial or a shop sign to tell you what century you are in. Or the latest issue of This England, "Britain's Loveliest Magazine", which urges readers to "tune in to yesterday" ("Ever-green Melodies" cassettes, £4.99 each) or to buy books with fittes like Tikes, Dumplings & Scrumpy Jacks.
In Country Life the potent

cocktail of maudlin sentiment. antiques, and substantial thatched properties in the gated estates of Walton-on-Thames is at least tempered by a little wit, a little awareness of how contemporary realities do, as they must, intrude: uncomfortable facts like miscegenation, for example (this month's portrait photograph is of fasbios designer Miss Selina Blow, who is "half-British, half-Sri Lankan", though seemingly all white). And the jokey Xmas snakes-and-ladders-like "Game of Villages" has lines such as "You discover the visiting Catholic hishop is your father

- Back 4" and "The owner of
the village shop wins the Lottery and closes down - Back 2". But when a solitary black face looms up - advertising the ultimate running machine - it's a jolt. What the bell's he

doing here? The unpleasant fact is that the cosy Disney fantasy of England is a projection of American wishful thinking at its most cloying and covertly racist. Why not locate the remake of 101 Dalmatians in Manhattan? Because then you would have to contend with the Rainbow Coalition that is the real New York, Keep it in London, or rather in a fantasy city call-1 London, and you can indul, / tasies of order and hierarchy (and doubtless draconian immigration policies) for all they are worth, with oo comeback.

Only the quarterly This England has the hrutal honesty to make explicit the chauvinism that is at the root of all such sentimental conceptions of Home and Hearth: interspersing chocolate-box scenery with vituperative and fundamentalist anti-Enropeanism; captioning a placid scene of chomping cows with the hizarre allegation that BSE was imported from France after the Battle of Waterloo: overlaying images of castles and cottages and the Houses of Parliament with ringing patri-

otic messages:
"O, sons of the Motherland, obey, obey The call of the old Home

Flag ..."
And this stuff goes down a long "I gaze treat in America, too. "I gaze at each picture with longing in my heart," writes Juan Mat-tews from California in the Readers' Comments column. "Of all the magazines I have subscribed to, This England is by far the best," writes another American. "It has great style

and dignity." ft's flattering that Disney should lavish attention on our little island in preference to so many other places. But when one understands the game he's playing, that emotion is liable



Wide-eyed at The Disney Store Photograph: Andrew Buurman

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PAGEONE

Watch out for the BBC's next offensive

nlikely as it seems, I have been praying for the BBC. I have been praying that the BBC will come to its senses and not put nut offensive material to poison our minds. And now t seems, after a period of despair, that my prayers have finally been answered. First of all, there was the glad tidings that Radio 4 had decided not to broadcast a new "comedy" programme called Eamonn, Elder Brother of Jesus, for fear that it might offend people. The controller of Radio 4, Mr James Boyle, did not say whom it might offend, but I think I can suggest who. Everyone! Elder brothers. Christians, Irish people, relations of Jesus, people called Earman, the Christian Brothers - almost everyone. James Boyle said his decision had nothing to do with his being a Catholic, but it was plain that Catholics would also be offended by the suggestion that Jesus had an Irish brother, so I think we can take it that James was telling a little white lie there. And if he wasn't, then he should have been.

Then, as if that wasn't enough of an answer to my prayer, comes the wonderful news that the BBC has decided to drop a comedy TV programme written by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman called Gobble, which depicts a Britain in the grip of a fictitious "mad turkey disease". The programme has already been made. It was due to go out. But the BBC has apparently withdrawn it for fear of causing distress to people in Scotland who have recently been suffering from the series of deaths from the E coli bug. (And, they might well have added, for fear of offending people who run turkey farms for a livelihood, people who are vegetarians, and people who have turkeys in the family, or indeed people who have Douglas Hogg in the family.) Excellent! At last the BBC has begun to see the light. At last a bit of sensitivity and good taste at BBC HQ. But there is a long way to go yet. In order to spare people's feelings, may I submit this list of offensive programmes which figure prominently in my nightly prayers and which should be dropped forthwith?

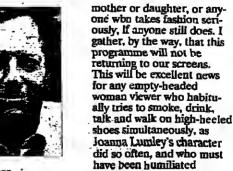


Miles Kington

1. Grand Prix racing. Deeply distressing to anyone who has ever been involved in a road accident. For Damon Hill to be voted BBC sports personality of the year is adding insult to salt in the wound.

2. One Foot In The Grave. Very offensive to anyone who is likely to die soon, or is just thinking of dying, or who has actually recently

3. Absolutely Fabulous. Causes immense pain to anyone with a drinking problem, to anyone with a



beyond belief by the portrayal, if she could focus on

4. Woman's Hour. Absolutely mortifying for any man who habitually feels excluded. 5. The News. Deeply scarring for anyone who is a refugee, a war victim, a Palestinian, a politician, a

member of the Royal Family, a Lanarkshire butcher, a farmer, a policeman, an Irish terrorist, a Catholic and so on. All these people? A policeman, for instance? Certainly. How often do we hear on the news statements such as: "Police have still made no progress in finding the killer of 18-year-old so-

and so "? How do you think

failure is blazoned across the news? Humiliated. Suicidal. Every bit as bad as an E coli bacteria sufferer faced with a programme about "mad turkey disease", that's how bad. In fact, a lot, lot worse.

6. Derek Cooper's The

Food Programme on Radio 4. which must cause perpetual pain to all those of us who cook badiy, buy mass-produced foods and stick to a rotten diet. Especially in Scotland, which we all know has the worst eating habits in Britain, and where, if The Food Programme is to be believed, Scots are likely to die an earlier, fat-saturated death even if they don't go to an E coli-linked grave. What must it be like to live in Scotland and hear what The Food Programme has to

say about your diet? The list is endless. I only pray that the BBC will continue to come to its senses and not risk offending

Do we want a BBC that takes risks? I think not. Luckily, the way things are going, we are in no danger of having one.

anyone.

What 'The Sun' says about Blair and Europe

esterday, The Sun was succinct. None of those wishy-washy lines in the liberal - and indeed most of the Tory - press about how Tony Blair would retain the veto and stand up for Britain's interests as Prime Minister. Far from it. The paper that cuts to the chase was clear yesterday about the Labour leader's message in his weekend interviews:
"Blair Vows: I'm backing Brussels. Labour to give up Veto on
vital Euro laws".

 $\mathbb{R}^{(A)}$

The little bear

That would be less interest-ing if it weren't that The Sun has become so unpredictable lately on questions of party politics. It has been - at times - a good deal more vitriolic about John Major than it has ever been about Tony Blan. And it wouldn't matter if The Sun's obsessive Europhobia didn't have the capacity to inspire fear and loathing in both the main political parties. Which is why Labour reacted with such unbridled fury at yesterday's (page two) headline. Much more fury, predictably enough, than when John Major said most of the same things yes-terday afternoon, claiming that a Labour government would conduct a "Dutch auction" of British sovereignty.

But did The Sun have a point? How far apart are the two parties on Europe? And can Major, with the albeit fickle backing of Rupert Murdoch's

biggest-selling newspaper, still turn Europe into a vote winner? Let's quickly map out some territory. The Sun's report was hased largely on the well-known fact that Tony Blair doesn't rule out the possibility that Labour may agree in the current intergovernmental conference (IGC) to an extension of majority voting - as opposed to unanimity, which means each country can eto any proposal - in four policy areas; social, regional, industrial and environmental. It's also true that the Labour leader has shown no sign so far of finching – despite some wishful reports in right-wing newspapers to the contrary – from signing up to the social chapter.

David Davies, the Government's European minister, will continue what he skilfully began in Dublin last week - extracting the maximum from all this to argue that Blair is ready to sell British sovereignty down the river. As it happens there are no proposals yet to extend there is a powerful case for doing so on the environment, since pollution has a nasty habit of crossing borders. The real-world impact of the social chapter is probably exaggerated by both its defenders and its critics. And even John Major for the first time slipped into his own BBC interview the admission that he wouldn't utterly, for eternity, rule out an extension of majority voting if there was "some tiny area lurking in the undergrowth" that he hadn't yet thought about. Prime ministers don't usually say things like that if they're not rather carefully keeping possible

None of that will stop the energetic Mr keeping in play. Sun or no Sun.



DonaldMacinture

A Labour government might be listened to in the EU. and that's a prize worth keeping in play

Davies. But the problem for him is that this is that is more or less ... er ... it. On the undesirability of institutionalising an EU immigration policy, likely to be one of the most difficult issues at the IGC, there is not a cigarette paper between the two leaders. On "flexibility" - Euro-speak for the actually rather inflexible idea that Germany and France should run a hard-core, inner Europe, leav-ing the outsiders in a peripheral second-class one — Blair is as determined as John Major that this must not happen without British agreement. And he isn't going to give up a veto on for-eign policy or sign up to a Enropean army any more than Major is. Above all, thanks to Major's decision not to rule out a single currency, on the most explosive issue of all, the formal

positions of the two parties are famously close together.

Which is prohably quite lucky for Blair. It is said at the highest Labour levels that had John Major ditched Ken Clarke and buckled to the Euro-sceptics by ruling out the single cur-rency, Blair would not have succumbed to the Faustian embrace of such as The Sun and followed suit. That's no doubt true. Blair genuinely believes that the best way of extending Britain's influence is to do so as a strong player in the EU. But this scenario would have left

him in a more exposed and uncomfortable position in the run-up to the election. As it is now, he has the space to argue that on first-order issues his formal position is close to that of John Major's but that the big difference is that he has a manageable party and Major doesn't. And, as a result, that he will be able to exercise more influence in Europe if and when elected.

You don't have to sign op to the misty eyed proposition that "all Europe is waiting for Tony Blair" to think there is quite a lot in this, Major and Kenneth Clarke have consistently argued that to retain its influence over the shape of EMU it needs to leave open the possibility that it will join. But as it is, it is largely thanks to the respect that Kenneth Clarke enjoys in Europe - and his occasional dogged willingness to gatecrash the odd caucus meeting - that Britain retains some of that influence. From time to time, the idea has been mooted in Whitehall that the UK government should simply propose formally that the single currency should be postponed. There is an excellent case for it. But a British proposal of that kind would be laughed out of court as a move patently motivated by the vested interest of a party, a growing number of whose MPs want to be outside Europe, let alone EMU. It doesn't take much imagination to see that a Labour government - even one saying it didn't want to join EMU in the first wave but did want to be in the second - might be listened to rather carefully on all sorts of substantive points, includ-ing whether the celebrated Maastricht criteria were being fudged. And that's a prize worth

As the Round Room goes, so does an era

by Malcolm Bradbury



It was the dry spot in a wet London, the sanctum of sanctums. the heartland of books

and decoders of the meanings of

The regular users were the the condition to which I aspired. As Britain's great casual researchers and makers of library of deposit, it (or its outarguments, for whom it was the lying colonies and dependendry spot in a wet London, the cies, such as the newspaper sanctum of sanctums, the heartlibrary at Colindale) held the land of books. Though solemnly slock of everything. Or not quite: the bombing had careless intrusion, the great depleted it, too. The great catalogue, painfully stuck together with paste and human hand. showed the wartime depredations, which the keepers were knowledge, to theosophists and Gurdjieffians, Tahmudic scholars now trying to restore.

I was, as it happened, work-

ing on a history of the modern IY OX LOCED DAG DECO DOTE II Bloomsbury, some created by editors - like Eliot himself, or John Lehmann or Cyril Connolly - one could still meet about the premises. Literary periodicals are writing's living edge; they are where the interesting new writers and the powerful new movements generally show up first. Imagism and Vorticism had begun here, just round the corner. The Rebel Art Centre and the Poetry Bookshop had been just a

ing on a history of the modern

British literary periodicals. Writing, as everyone knows, had long flourished under the Aut dome. That meant not just Karl Marx writing Das Kap-ital, or Virginia Woolf researching her reviews. Poems and short stories were still habitually worked out during the long morning wait for books. With a peculiar appropriateness, the deputy superintendent who surveyed the doings of the gathered scholars and eccentrics from his glass cage was Angus Wilson - whose high-pitched voice resounded round the silent room, and who was writ-

ing there himself.

I wrote poetry and fiction there, and even fell in love. It was with Jean Rook, who records her own thesis-writing experience in her autohiography The Cowardly Lioness.
"Eight hours a day in the British Museum is a killer, unless you're a mummy," she notes, adding that the chief relief was to escape to the music room with the present writer, who was (as she reminds me) writing his first novel down at desk D4.

For my Fifties generation, the BM was home to many novels, and some of them did explicit homage to the hallowed room. Margaret Drabble wrote vividly of working there. So did David Lodge in The British Museum is Falling Down, a novel richly filled with epigraphs from the many previous writers who had written in what has rightly been called "the favourite working space in the world".

Given the multiplication of publishing, it was inevitable that one day the Reading Room would outgrow itself, and a new, dedicated British Library be huilt. It has not been an edifying tale; and the departure of books, scholars and writers from Great Russell Street to St Pancras has been about as emotionless and unpassionate as the new, unromantic building itself.

Worse still, though, is the planned future of the Round Reading Room, I am unhappy to say it - since the architect is Norman Foster, whose work I profoundly admire - yet the world's most bookish space is to be robbed of its bookishness. It will be re-incorporated into the British Museum itself. Some of the great iron stacks which are essential to its atmosphere will be removed; the great open space will be divided by a glass

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Looked at abstractly, we can say that what's happening to the Round Reading Room is a metaphor for a kind of bookishness we have come to dispense with. It will be appropriately deconstructed into a new room of glass walls and computers. As one of the trustees puts it, its main function as "a centre of information will be unchanged, although it will use the latest technology".

The reading room was never a "centre of information"; it was great place of writing and scholarship. What we are deconstructing is an entire history of literariness. Taking one of the greatest human spaces ever devised for imagination and inquiry, we are robbing it of its meaning.

Mr Fix-it goes global

Simon Edge talks to the once reviled by-election bruiser Andy Ellis

content to watch events unfold on television, between the Queen's Speech and the James Bond film, but not Andy Ellis. He filled up his car with emergency supplies, hooked up with a friend in Budapest and entered bullet-pocked Timisoara three days after the fall of the dictator Ceausescu. "It was dangerous, but not particularly scary to me," he recalls. Perhaps I'm not easily scared."

If Ellis doesn't suffer from fear, he sure as hell inspires it. As vice-chairman and then secretary-general of the Liberal Party for much of the 1980s, he struck terror into the hearts of his Labour and Tory opponents hy presiding over the series of spectacular by election upsets that threatened for a while to change the shape of British politics. And now, although he's all smiles and geniality, he's scaring the pants off me. We're huddled in the kitchen at the

busiling south London beadquarters of the lobby firm GJW, of which Ellis is a direclor, discussing the company's success in picking up contracts to run elections in Palestine, Bosnia and now Yemen. I'm trying to pluck up the courage to ask how someone associated - rightly or wrongly with the dirtiest tricks in politics can forge a second career out of guaranteeing fair play. Trouble is, he's six-foot-three and the windows rattle when he speaks.

"Political players are supposed to be skilled at getting the result they want, within the overall framework of the rules, and it's the joh of politicians to campaign as effectively as they know how within that framework," he says, in the stentorian Brummie tones that used to excite the by-election sketch writers almost as much as his sticking-plaster specs and nerdish pullover. "What we are doing is establishing the framework in which those campaigns can take place." His people never ventured outside the confines of electoral law, he insists.

At a time when political lobbying is getling a bad press, Ellis is GJW's star turn. Now based in Brussels, be joined the firm as an Eastern Europe expert to set up offices in Budapest, Warsaw, Prague and Bucharest. Five or six years on, these outtits are thriving in their own right, and Ellis to acknowledge, was opposed by a rebel

areas. He and his team bring the knowhow, from drawing up constituency boundaries to organising the count and handling the media, while the international community picks up the tab. Ellis's technicalassistance package, costing around £1m for a two-year programme, is a relatively



small price for the UN or the European Commission to pay if it helps brings

stability to a war zone. Elections are in Ellis's soul. He first stood for Parliament in 1974, as a Liberal, at the age of 22. Two years later, he made headlines by coming a surprise second in the Newcastle Central by-election. He tried twice more to reach Westminster, but his true metier turned out to be getting other people elected. In Bermondsey in 1983, he masterminded what remains the biggest by-election swing in modern political history. Labour's Peter Tatchell, vilified for homosexuality be chose then not

The Romanian revolution broke out is busy bringing the ballot box to some of at Christmas 1989. Most of us were the world's most democratically-challenged vassers did the rounds wearing "I've kissed Peter Tatchell" badges, Simon Hughes romped home for the Liberals and has held the one-time Labour stronghold ever since.

The Criterion had carried much

of British literary modernism,

still worked as a publisher in

Faber and Faber, over on the

corner of Russell Square.
Great Russell Street remained packed with small

publishers, odd book shops and

print shops, and the wer, dingy pubs and tea shops were

crowded with writers and would-

be's who casually survived on

casual reviewing, or were about

to start up some new, hideously

under-funded magazine or

poetry imprint. Post-war

Bloomsbury still remained a lit-

erary district; the Round Read-

ing Room, with its great spoked

freelance writers and academics.

guarded and protected from

book-lined room was somehow

always open to Bohemia. It was

filled with random eccentrics

with theories about the key to all

Ellis picked up an OBE for political services and wound up as chief executive of the merged Social and Liberal Democrats. He says he bears no grudge against the SDP loyalists who allegedly plotted his ousting in 1989, and he is still a paid-up Lib Dem. "Tm very happy with what we developed in the Eighties, which was a series of major innovations in election campaigning," he says. But would some of those byelections pass the test of the electoral supervision that GJW now offers? Take the Taichell lapel badges, or the notorious "Which queen would you vote for?" leasiets in the same campaign. Those weren't done by Liberals. As far as I remember they were done by the O'Grady people." But did he approve? Pause. Smile.
"Nothing went on in Bermondsey that we were unhappy with," he chuckles.

By-elections generate enduring stories, Ellis says, but so do international peacekeeping elections - whereupon he meanders off into a long story about Palestine. the punchine of which is basically that winters on the West Bank are colder than you'd think. Perfectly true, and the tale is jolly enough, but this is hardly the stuff of legend. Not like the one about the Labour activists burning the Liberal "battle bus" after the Newcastle-under-Lyme by-election in 1986. The Liberals are said not to have complained too much because they knew they deserved it.

But times have changed, and so, no doubt, has Ellis. He certainly looks different. There's a stain on his shirt but the pullie has gone and the black plastic glasses have given way to fancier frames. Dressing down to make people underestimate him may have worked on the by-election battlefield, but it's a less productive tactic in the cleancut world of international consultancy.

I can't leave without asking what he's done with the pullover. Panse. Ominously long pause, in fact. Then the gravelly boom: "There are a lot of myths about me." And finally, praise be, the table wobbles. He's laughing.

Are we talking avocado again?

biggest thing that has ever happened in hathat Armitage Shanks in Staffordshire. That was the colour avocado - now a cliché, then a huge hit that went on to sell an estimated 1 million suites.

"It was a one-off. It could never happen again for something to become so popular, so dramatically. It bordered on the freakish, but in the nicest possible way," says the commercial services manager, Sam Wood-berry. "From 1972 to 1978, avocado outsold all other colours put together. It really did become accepted to talk about bathroom suites at the swishest cocktail parties. You could say, 'Oh, we've got an avocado bidet.'"

How soon we forget. The words "avocado" and "bidet" are now only mentioned in the same sentence as "care in the community". Witness this months Elle Decoration: "The all-white bathroom representing purity in the Twenties is now a clear statement of superior taste. Even estate agents now talk disparagingly of the avo-cado hathroom suite, which has replaced garden gnomes as an object of ridicule."

Never believe anything you read in a magazine devoted to "emotional photography", but this did check out. Hillreed Homes in Sussex speaks for all estate agents when it states coldly that the "once-ubiquious avocado suite is out".

It may be out of production but is it really out of mind? After all, only months ago Black Forest gateau was a cliché. Now, according to EatSoup magazine, it is on the comeback dessert trolley. If avocado prawn can be fashionable again.

he year was 1968 and the why not avocado suites? Paul Curtis of Roy Brooks estate agents in London snorts: "Well, I think we are talking about something that is around just a

hit longer than a gateau."
But this is exactly the point. Fashion gurus keep saying that brown is the new black, but nothing can replace avocado. Already the whisper in sanitaryware is that some of the darker Seventies colours (remember plum?) are poised to return and liven up a decade that so far has been whiter than white.

Mr Woodberry has followed

the market for 30 years and he says it is not a question of whether avocado will return, hut when. Of course by that time, they may be extinct if current rip-out rates persist. One idea to avert this would be to start listing all avocado suites (1969 launch suites could have a special status).

Parliament is already showing interest. Not long ago, Peter Viggers (Conservative, Gosport) spoke on a related topic. The House will be entranced to hear that men take an average of 45 seconds in the lavatory and women take an average of 80 seconds." He then argued that women need three times the amount of provision. "I bope that that plea will be heard by some of the people who make the decisions about the provision of public lava-

If we are on the brink of a boom in women's bathrooms and this really would be a votegetter with Worcester woman then why not colour that future avocado? It's the kind of thing you just don't hear enough about at cocktail parties these

Ann Treneman

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position in the civil jet market.

London and David Usborne A source close to Airhus in Toulouse said: "This deal makes Airbus Industrie, the Eurothe need for Airbus to become pean aircraft manufacturer. a single corporate entity that vesterday conceded that the much more acute. The four Boeing takeover of McDonnell partners need to stop hickering Douglas had increased the uramong themselves and face up gency for it to push ahead with its own restructuring into a fulsquarely to the enemy on the other side of the pond."

ly commercial organisation. Claims that the \$45hn merg-er between the world's number But the four-nation consortium, in which British Acroone and number three aircraft space has a 20 per cent stake, shrugged off suggestions that manufacturers might overwhelm Airbus were, however,

the merger of its two US rivals dismissed. "People tend to forwould seriously undermine its get that McDonnell Douglas is merger would remove from the France. Germany's Daimler now an also-ran in the commerial aircraft market. It only accounts for 5-6 per cent of orders so I don't see how a merger with Bocing threatens us or makes life more difficult," said Boh Alizart, Airbus vice-president of corporate communications.

Strong backing for this view came from Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, who said that, if anything, the

market a bit player tempted to cause price distortions by undercutting its two bigger rivals.
Second, it would distract

Boeing's attentions for at least

12 months while it was putting the merged company together. Third, said Sir Colin, it meant that airlines would insist on shortlisting Airbus for most new aircraft orders to ensure that there remained healthy competition between two strong

BAe and the three other Air-

bus partners - Aerospatiale of said that any other target date Benz and Casa of Spain, are due to sign a binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) by the end of this year setting out bow the consortium will convert into a limited commercial com-.

business & city

pany by 1999. Edzard Reuter, the Airbus chairman and former head of Daimler Benz, was quoted as saying that the Boeing merger would accelerate the three-year timetable for transition. But

than 1999 would be "unrealistic". Progress towards signing the hinding MOU has been slowed

up by a dispute among the Airbus partners over what assets they should put into the new company and who would be responsible for them.

At present the four companies are work-sharing partners who charge Airbus for building aircraft and then take a per centage of any profit made from selling them. When Airthese remarks appeared to be hus transfers into a public lim-contradicted by Toulouse, which ited status the partners will bus will be able to contract production wherever it wishes.

The deal, meanwhile, was ven a strong welcome on Wall Street yesterday with shares in both companies surging m early trading and analysts agreeing that for McDonnell Douglas in particular it was the only sen-

sible long-term option.

Harry Stonecipher, chief executive of McDonnell Douglas. said: "This was what we wanted. This was the only deal we considered, we did not shop the company around." Mr Stonecipher

Airbus shrugs off jet merger threat become shareholders while Air- will be chief operating officer of

the new company.
Philip Condit, meanwhile, the CEO of Boeing, voiced optimism that the merger would win early approval from US monopoly regulators: "Look at this on a global scale and I believe that the anti-trust issue will not be there."

At the start of New York trading, Boeing stock was trading up \$5.75 at \$102.50, increasing the value of its all-share offer to close on \$15bn. More impressive was a \$12.25 jump in McDonnell Douglas shares to reach \$64.25.

OECD praises UK economic policies

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Michael Harrison

New York

The Government's economic policies have delivered the best growth and inflation prospects for 30 years, according to a glowing end-of-year report from the Organisation for

Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The one criticism the agency makes is that progress in reducing the Government's budget deficit has been too slow. It predicts that the UK will not qualify for the single currency because the borrowing requirement will exceed the 3 per cent Maastricht ceiling.

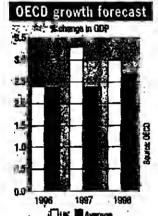
In its twice-yearly economic outlook, published later this week, the OECD says strong growth, falling unemployment and low inflation "are the most tangible signs of the positive benefits of past and ongoing microeconomic reforms and a stable macroeconomic policy framework". It is the latest in a stream of publications from the Paris-based organisation, funded by member governments, to lavish praise on Government policies.

Val Koromzay, the organisation's deputy director for economic forecasts, said: "I'm not sure if one wants to be euphoric, but the OECD assessment is that there really are grounds to be solidly optimistic about the near-term

prespects for the UK economy."
The Government was declaims that its policies have half uf 1998, the third lowest helped push Britain up the among the big economies after helped push Britain up the growth league. Kenneth Clarke, Japan and the US, The report the Chancellor, said: "This suggests that falling unemployindependent report from a highly respected international body supports my view that the UK economy is facing the best conomic circumstances for

Indeed, the OECD's vigor-ously free-market economists say another dose of deregulation and flexibility would bring substantial benefits, even though the UK has already gone much further than conti-

nental Europe and Japan. The new forecasts put Britain in the top half of the league of hig industrial countries for growth, with only the Canadian economy expanding faster during the next two years. Its prediction of 3.3 per cent growth next year is below the 3.5 per cent Treasury forecast in the



Budget but around the average for independent economists. Consumer spending and private sector investment are expected to drive the above-trend growth.

The OECD foresees unemplayment falling below 7 per cent ment could reduce overall inequality even if the distribution of wages widens, providing the Government with some useful ammunition against the charge that income inequality has

grown faster in the UK than any other industrial country.

It reckons interest rates will have to rise, although by a mere quarter point by 1998. But the organisation says inflation will remain below the Government's target, making it much more optimistic than many other economists. Unlike many other forecasters, including the Bank of England, the OECD thinks inflationary pressures have diminished since 1995.

The report says: "Inflation is projected to be below 2.5 per cent in the coming two years, aided in part by a significant rise in sterling's effective exchange rate and some firming of interest rates." It concedes there is some risk of inflationary pressure, but says there are no convincing signs yet that inflation is rising.

This optimistic outlook still puts UK inflation above the average for the G7 countries, at 2.2 per cent in 1997 and 1.9 per cent in 1998, compared with average rates of 1.7 per cent and 1.6 per cent respectively. But it concludes: "Prospects for achieving sustained output growth and low inflation are the best in 30 years, even though fiscal consolidation has been relatively slow."

The outlook for government borrowing is the one area where the think-tank is substantially more pessimistic than the Treasury: "Significant further progress in delivering the planned reduction in public sector borrowing will be needed."

In a forecast made before the

Budget, it puts the ratio of government borrowing to GDP at | ate West Anglia Great North-3.7 per cent in 1997 - the same as Italy - the key year for the decision as to which countries qualify to join the euro. Even the measures announced last month would be unlikely to get this below the 3 per cent ceiling. Comment, page 15 | at last night's closing price of

Patrick Tooher

The seven founder investors of Prism Rail, the company set up to tender for passenger train franchises, were awarded more free shares worth £5.4m yesterday after announcing plans to finance their fourth successful hid. Details of the latest share bo-

nanza emerged as Prism announced a £12m rights issue to help fund the contract to operern railway, the heavily subsidised line which runs from London to Stansted airport, Cambridge and Peterborough. The founders already own just over a third of Prism's shares, worth more than £30m



445p, compared to their placing price in May of 100p.

The launch yesterday of the 5-for-28 rights issue at a deeply-discounted 330p a share set off a complex ratchet mechanism. Under the terms of a deal money, and we are taking no agreed when Prism gained a listing on the Alternative Investment Market, a total of 16.5 million deferred shares were issued at par to the founders in return for them agreeing to fund the cost of Prism tendering for

Prism founders get shares worth £5.4m

rail franchises up to £2.7m. In October the investors, six of whom run private bus companies, were awarded shares worth £7.4m after Prism took over two rail franchises, South Wales and West Railway and

Cardiff Railway. Prism defended the latest award of shares, saying the founders had taken the time and financial risk of bidding for 18 of the 25 available rail franchises without a guarantee they would win any. We didn't borrow the

salary from Prism," said God-frey Burley, Prism's chairman. The subscription agreement

ensures that the founder investors receive deferred shares equivalent to 25 per cent of any new ordinary shares issued. The deferred shares are convertible into ordinary shares on a one-for-one basis every time Prism is awarded a new franchise and fresh equity is raised to fund its operations.

In addition to the new shares awarded yesterday, the seven founders also share in a tank £620,000 payment for waiving their entitlement to take up shares in the rights issue, which is fully underwritten by stockbrokers William de Broe. As a result the directors' stake in

Prism will fall from 33,6 per cent to just under 32 per cent.

The founders of Prism are Mr Burley and Peter Shipp, who run Yorkshire Motor Services Group; finance director Giles Fearoley and Stuart Wilde, who run Blazefield Buses; Robert Howells, chairman of the hus company Lynton; and Len Wright, of the bus company Q Drive. The seventh founder is Kenneth Irvine, who used to write papers on privatising British Rail for the Adam Smith Institute, a free market think

Prism has hid for 18 of the 25 rail franchises being sold off and is shortlisted for the Scotrail and North West Regional Railways contracts.

Sky verdict angers cable firms

Mathew Horsman Media Editor

UK cable companies yesterday threatened to take their long-running dispute with Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB to Brunck, following confirmation that the Office of Fair Trading had cleared the controversial terms under which Sky makes its nav-TV channels available to cable operators.

The revised rate card, formally approved by the OFT vesterday, will be in offect within all days, and determines the communities of supply of BSKyB's p in TV programming to cable. Cable operators will be able to choose anone various discount options, and to be eligi-

He for discounts even it they do

not take all the Sky channels.

They will also be able to offer

Sky sincw sports channel on an a in care basis. The changes increase the

marketing their services, "said John Bridgeman, director gen-eral of the OFT

But the Cable Communications Association reacted bitterly to the decision. "We fail to see how today's announcement is in the consumers' interest. it said in a statement.

The operators complained that they would still be obliged to take most, if not all the Sky

Mirror Group and BSkyB were last night competing for the pay-per-view broadcasting rights to the Lennox Lewis-Oliver McCall boxing match, scheduled for February. The move marks the first time BSkyB's hold on pay-per-view television has been seriously challenged.

Mirror Group, which owns 46 per cent of the *Independent*, is brokering its sought-for deal on behalf of the cable industry, which would offer the fight on The changes increase the llevibility of cable operators in million franchise homes.

were based on revenues per subscriber, rather than on volume. The cable industry is more concerned to huild its subscriber base than to maximise rev-

enues per cable connection. BSkyB shares rose 13p to clase at 489.5p, reflecting the market perception that Sky had

BSkyB, which pioneered the pay-per-view concept in the UK with its Bruno-Tyson and Tyson-Holyfield broadcasts, was believed to be eager to top the Mirror-backed bid on behalf of its 4 million direct-to-home satellite subscribers.

Mirror Group is thought to have offered a minimum guarantee to the fight's promoters, a promise of high promotional spend and a 50/50 split of the revenues. However, analysts expected BSkyB to top the bid as the negotiations continued.

channels in order to be eligible once again escaped regulatory restraints. The City was also concerned that Sky's schemes cheered by reports that BSkyB was poised to award contracts to the manufacturers of set-top boxes, in anticipation of the launch of digital satellite tele-

vision in late 1997. The launch of the digital service had been delayed while the Government considered the terms of formal guidelines covering set-top box technology. These are now likely to be laid before Parliament on Thursday, clearing the way for Sky to award

contracts worth up to £200m. BSkyB's more buoyant share price followed several months of uncertainty, particularly over regulatory concerns and the timing of the digital launch. The shares reached nearly 700p earlier this year, but slid to well helow 500p.

Sky has field talks with programme suppliers, retailers and manufacturers about its plans for a digital service.

ITV companies back network shake-up

Sharing in a bonanza (from left): Robert Howells, Len Wright, Godfrey Burley, Giles Fearnley and Kenneth Irvine

The 11 ITV companies are to consider a radical plan to set up a new management structure for the Network Centre and the ITV Association, industry sources said last night, writes

Mathew Horsman.
The plan, which has the backing of at least three leading ITV companies, would see a managing director appointed to a new company, ITV Ltd, re-sponsible for the network schedule and other ITV-wide activities.

There is a general perception that there needs to be an accountable structure for the network director and the commissioning staff at Network Centre," a senior ITV hroadcaster said yesterday. "The current system is not accountable. either for ratings or for admin-

Sources stressed that the new

gional nature of the ITV system. Requirements governing com-missioning at Network Centre, as regulated by the Independent Television Commission, would

also be respected. However, the reorganisation will be seen by many as a further step toward creating a single "Channel 3" brand in the UK, capable of responding to the ratings challenge posed by cable, satellite and the new Channel 5 terrestrial service.

The plan is also consistent with the pan is also considering which could lead to the whole of ITV controlled by just two or three companies. The market widely expects Yorkshire-Tyne Tees to be bought by Granada, while HTV is believed to be in the sights of either United News & Media or Carlton Communications.

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Court issues arrest warrant for Levitt

Nic Cicutti

A warrant for the arrest of Roger Levitt, the disgraced former life assurance salesman, was issued yesterday by London magistrates after he failed to appear in court on a summons alleging that he was the "shadow director" of a boxing promotion company in contravention of a disqualifi-

cation order. Timothy Workman, a Lon-don magistrate, issued the warrant at the Marlborough Street court after hearing that Mr Levitt was overseas and had no plans to return to the UK. He ordered that the warrant should not be backed by bail to ensure Mr Levitt was taken into immediate custody once the

warrant was executed. The warrant follows an investigation by the Depart-ment of Trade and Industry over allegations that Mr Levitt has acted in contravention of the Company Directors (Disqualification) Act 1986.

Nicholas Hobbs, DTI investigating officer, told the court that he had charge of the criminal investigation into Mr Leviti's alleged offence. In reply to a series of questions from Simon Clements,

prosecuting Mr Hobbs said he wrote to Mr Levitt at his London address in July this year requesting an interview. Mr Levitt replied by letter on 4 August, saying his professional advisers would not be available to assist him until

said that Mr Levitt wrote a further letter in September, saying that he had not been involved in any business activity since "early 1995", no longer resided in the UK, and had no plans to return here.

When a summons was is-



Roger Levitt: Court heard

he plans to stay overseas "refused", and Mr Levitt's wife had said that her husband had left the UK earlier this year, and no longer resided at the address

in north London. Mr Hobbs said the DII as a result did not think that the summons could be enforced without a warrant being issued for the arrest of Mr Levitt. He also confirmed that Mr Levitt's solicitors were not being

instructed by him in connection with the matter. After hearing this, Mr Workman granted the application, saying, "there'll be a warrant September. The investigator

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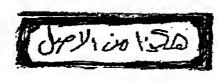
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'If the world's airlines want to ensure healthy competition for their custom when they next update their

fleets, then they will make damn certain that the European manufacturer is on every tender list'

US deal will not shoot down European rival

British Airways is not renowned as a great supporter of Europe's Airbus Industrie. It has never bought a single one of its jets and indeed is still resentfully referred to in parts of Toulouse as Boeing Airways. So when the BA chairman Sir Colin Marshall says that the BA chairman Sir Colin Marshall says that the merger between Boeing and McDonnell Douglas can be nothing but good news for

Airbus, it is worth taking note.

The reasoning goes something like this.
The merger will reduce the number of players in the big arrimer market to two. If the world's airlines want to ensure healthy competition for their custom when they next update their fleets, then they will make damn certain that the European manufacturer is on every tender list. The market will not allow the Americans to steamroller Airbus into oblivion because h has seen what happens when Boeing has a monopoly. It is no accident that the 747 jumbo jet - available only from Seattle - accounts for more than a third of Boeing's profits.

There are other reasons why the merger should not mean the meltdown on this side of the Atlantic suggested by some observers. One is the simple fact that it will tie Boeing up in knots for at least a year as the com-bined business beds down. The other is that it removes a bit player with a tired product range from the market, thus eliminating the

threat of uncommercial pricing.

increased presence the deal gives Boeing in the military market looks a more compelling motive, particularly oow that it also has Rockwell under its belt. Lockheed Martin and Europe's collection of still independent defence manufacturers probably have more to worry about than Airbus does.

None of this means, however, that Airbus can afford to be complacent. One side effect of the merger is to put more onus oo the consortium to complete its restructuring into a properly accountable and fully commercial entity, so that it can tap the capital markets for funds and match the efficiencies and economies of scale that Boeing presumably reckons it can wring from Dou-

glas's factories lower down the West Coast. That is no bad thing. The French partner in Airbus has recently shown signs of wanting to drag its feet. The Boeing-McDonnell deal is perhaps the kick in the shins it needs.

Prism's ratchet to riches takes some beating

Prism Rail's founding investors like to call the extraordinary money-making wheeze they had built into the company's articles of association a "ratchet scheme". The rest of us will continue to think of it as a racket. Not that it can be faulted, except perhaps as an In any event, it is by no means obvious that Boeing's primary purpose in buying up McDonnell is to gang up on Airbus. The McDonnell is to gang up on Airbus. The

prospectus, can it be regarded as even re-motely questionable. But as an example of bow to use the stock market to enrich yourself beyond the dreams of avarice it takes some beating.

Prism Rail is a stock market vehicle set up by a group of successful bus operators specifically for the purpose of hidding for privatised rail franchises. It has proved a wonder stock, rising fivefold since being floated on the alternative investment market last May. What the founding investors did was grant themselves a lorry load of "free" deferred shares, which become convertible into ordinary shares every time they raise mooey to finance a rail franchise. This is justified on the basis that the founders put up £2.7m of their own money to cover the costs of tendering for the franchises, nooe of which is refundable should they fail. Perbaps predictably, they haveo't. Prism won its fourth franchise yesterday - the West Anglia Great Northern - and duly announced pro-posals to raise £12m to finance it.

This is where the wheeze gets really clever . er, sorry, astnte. The conversion rate for the founders is one free share for every four sbares issued. So does that mean the founders get free shares to the value of 25 per cent of the money raised? Don't be naive. The rights issue has been pinched at a deep discount to the current stock market price.

Thus for just £12m raised, the founders get £5.4m of worth of free shares. The

get as a proportion of the amount raised. Add in the underwriting fee of an astonishing 3.5 per cent, most of which goes to Williams de Broe (this on a deeply discounted rights, but when there's so much money flying around it's only fair to share it out a bit), and you are looking at a cost of capital of something approaching 50 per cent. Even in the weird and wacky world of

venture capital, that's going it.

If these franchises turn out to be the gold mine Williams de Broe and others think they are, then nobody's going to complain. But for ratchet should we perhaps be reading Ponzi? Just watch it.

Let's keep this miracle in perspective

Gosh, it's a miracle, and just in time for Christmas too. In words that could almost have flowed directly from the Chan-cellor's own office, the OECD has come out firmly in support of the Government's claim that its policies have increased the British ecocomy's poteotial for growth without in-flation. But before Mr Clarke's rhetoric carries us and him away, it is important to get the improvement into perspective. Britain's performance relative to other big industrial countries is not as bad as it once was. We are talking small miracle, although none the less welcome for that.

Conservative triumpbalism about this

week's report from the OECD is focusing on the fact that it predicts the UK will have the second-fastest growth rate in the G7 for the next two years, and has enjoyed higher than average growth since 1993. It should be borne m mind, however, that UK growth was lower than the G7 average during the preceding downturn. The new forecasts thus demonstrate the well-known fact - that the British economy is more volatile than most others. The organisatioo reserves its real praise

for the fact that it reckons inflation will

remain in abeyance at least until 1998, the

fifth year of growth at or above treod. According to the OECD, the new flexibility of the labour market is paying off, with no sign of upward pressure oo wages. Look at the detail, however, and you see that the OECD is going out on a limb to justify these forecasts. Its economists reckon that only a quarter point rise in base rates is required to keep inflation below the 2.5 per cent target. This is a good deal more optimistic than others. Most economists are talking about base rates rising from the current 6 per cent to more than 7 per cent in a year or two. And despite the OECD's optimism, it is still predicting that the UK inflation rate will

remain one of the highest in the G7. Sceptics might note that it is easy to achieve a better than normal performance in a low-ioflation world. The longer the economy grows at an above-normal pace, and the faster unemployment falls, the greater the danger that wages and inflation will pick up.

BoE set to launch a challenger to Target

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

The Bank of England yesterday stepped up a row with France and Germany over the Target settlement system for the euro, by threatening to launch a cut-price rival service if Britain stays out of the single currency.

The threat emerged in a speech by Howard Davies, deputy governor of the Bank, and was reiterated in the Bank's quarterly report on preparations for mooetary union.

begun detailed work on prepar-ing a UK system which would be brought into action if France and Germany refuse to back

down over Target. Experts believe a Londonbased rival could operate with much lower costs and attract settlement business for the new currency away from continen-

tal centres, bypassing Target. With 500 banks, Londoo has the critical mass needed to start a new service, and a rival UK system would be open to any continental bank to use.

The sensitivity of the issue arises because Target will be a vital part of the oew monetary system to be operated by the European Central Bank. It will clear the largest payments in euros across national borders, linking oational settlemeot systems.

But France and Germany have been pressing to prevent banks from countries that do oot join the single currency having full access to the oew ser-vice. This has been fiercely resisted by the Bank of England.

The Bank is cothusiastic about Target because it will bring a hig reduction in the risks of settlement between European countries by transferring very large sums of mooey m-

stantly between banks, rather than allowing delays of several hours between the dispatch and receipt. This "real time" settlement eliminates the risk of a domino collapse if one bank fails to deliver.

Mr Davies said in a speech in London "denying even-handed access to Target would negate one of the main purposes of the whole exercise, to reduce the risk inherent in systems in which banks are exposed to each other for a period of hours".

Banks would find ways round It is understood the Bank has the restriction which would be more risky, so centra across Europe will have scored

> Last Friday, the Ecu Banking Association announced plans for a conventional rather than real-time euro settlement system, which it claimed could take 40 per cent of the market.

One possible option, said Mr Davies, would be for the UK to develop its own real-time settlement system for euros "to allow quick, efficient and safe euro payments within the UK which would not rely on access to intra-day credit from the ешто агеа"

The key issue is that France and Germany want non-mem-ber countries settling through Target to be refused credit from the European Central Bank during the working day.

Sbort-term credit is essential to keeping a large settlement system working, and the Bank of England's alternative proposals would achieve this without ask-

ing for credit from the ECB.

One option would be to set up a separate real-time UK clearing system for euros but use contine otal branches of British banks - which will have access to Target - to provide credit wheo the system occided it.

of nought to ten,

ever given it from

Full points or a big fat zero. There's no average mark for our malt. The unique, uncompromising taste of Laphroaig (la-froyg) has always polarised opinions. Some relish its sweet, heathery smokiness. Others will never appreciate its oily medicinal tang, nor savour the strong hint of seaweed. Take a sip, but be ready to take sides.



LAPHROAIG no half measures.

Insurance brokers merge

Peter Rodgers

A new phase in the rationalisation of insurance broking began vesterday with the announcement of a surprise £300m merger between Lloyd Thompson and JIB, two medium-sized London firms.

The merged company will be third largest by market capitalisation after Sedgwick and Willis Corroon.

JIB was floated in 1991 by Jardine Matheson, which still owns a 60 per cent stake. This will be diluted to 34 per cent after the merger.

Jardine is backing the deal,

which was first discussed hetween the two brokers two years ago but put on ice because of uncertainties over the future of the Lloyd's insurance market which have now been resolved. 130p after the terms were Talks were revived about six

weeks ago. Ken Carter, chief executive of Lloyd Thompson, who will play the same role in the merged group, said the merger was not new Lloyd Thompson shares for a delensive move just to make every five JIB shares.

cost savings but intended to ex-ploit the exact fit between the two.

His own firm was predominantly a London market insurance and reinsurance broker and had tried in recent years to develop in Asia and Latin America. JIB was "fantastically well established" in Asia Pacific because of its connection with Jardine.

The only area where there was a potential for conflict was in the London energy insurance market, but even there the two companies had different geographical specialities - JIB in Africa and Asia and Lloyd Thompson io America and Scandinavia, he said.

The new company, to be called Jardine Lloyd Thompson, will be chaired by John Barton, now chief executive of JIB, whose shares shot up 21p to announced. Lloyd Thompson

rose 1.5p to 174p.

The offer, to be made by Lloyd Thompsoo through Phoenix Securities, is of four

Windship

Holiday Inn deal gives Bass stake in largest US hotelier

Tom Stevenson

Bass has sold 47 Holiday Inns and 14 management contracts to Bristol Hotel, a Dallas-based hotelier, in a deal that gives the British brewer a 36 per cent stake in what will be North America's largest owner-operator of full-service hotels. As well as the share stake.

Bass will receive \$91m (£55m) in cash from Bristol, which is also paying down \$300m of Bass's debt, putting a total value of So59m on the hotels. Sir Jan Proser. Bass chairman, said the deal was in line with its strategy of expanding its Holiday Inn franchise and withdrawing from the direct ownership of hotel

properties.
Under the Holiday lnn franchise system hoteliers, who retain management and ownership of the hotels, pay a signing-on fee to join and a per-centage of annual sales for the computer reservation system and marketing. Holiday Inn Worldwide op-

erates or franchises more than 2,200 hotels and 380,000 guest rooms in around 60 countries. It is the world's largest single

Bass said it would appoint direct ownership of hotels

Bristol and Holiday Inn would continue to own and manage its Crowne Plaza hotels in North

The transaction more than doubles the size of Bristol. Formerly called the Harvey Hotel Company, it owns and operates 39 primarily full-service hotels in seven states with a total of 10,187 rooms. Founded in 1981. the company employs more than 4,500 staff.

The 61 hotels transferred, which have a book value of \$638m, generated profits of \$69m in the financial year to 30 September after payment of



Sir lan: Withdrawing from

two directors to the board of franchise fees. Bristol will spend \$150m on the properties over the oext three years. Bass said the deal would have no sig-

nificant effect on its earnings. Bass said it was in talks with Bristol over the possible sale of these Holiday Inn hotels in North America last week.

Bass is putting Holiday Inn through a modernisation programme in an attempt to bring the 43-year-old chain up to date. The programme requires all hotels that have not been upgraded since they joined the system prior to 1989 to modernise

In the year to September, Holiday Inn Worldwide reported a 15.4 per cent rise in operating profit with strongest growth coming from Europe, the Middle East and Africa. During the year the Holiday Inn chain grew from 2,080 hotels to 2,249.

The disposal of most of its American managed hotels is Bass's first corporate move since its attempted bid for Carlsberg-Tetley was put on ice by lan Lang, President of the Board of Trade, who referred the £200m deal to the Monopolies and Mergers Commis-sion. The deal would have returned Bass to its position as

Black sells Fairfax stake

Mathew Horsman Media Editor

Hollinger, Conrad Black's media holding company. yesterday agreed to sell a 20 per cent stake io Fairfax, the Australian media giant, for A\$447.1m (£213m), ending a five-year attempt to win

control of the company.

The stake, sold to Brierley Investments of New Zealand, was being seen last night as a hargaining chip in the battle for control of Fairfax, which has in the past attracted the interest of three media barons: Mr Black, Rupert Murdoch and Kerry Packer, the Australian TV and

Briefley, which is known to in-

vest in companies for investment purposes, was thought likely to open discussions with Mr Packer about selling the stake on, once Australian media ownership rules were reformed.

The company insisted, however, that the holding was "strategic" and that it had no immediate intentions of seeking a buyer.

Mr Packer has a 15 per centstake in Fairfax, the maximum allowed by companies which also

Free

Credit'

held the stake through a Dutch-based subsidiary of the com-pany's Daily Telegraph group, is expected to use the proceeds to reduce corporate debt.

Mr Black made it clear earlier this year that he would seek to sell the stake if the Australian government did not allow him to increase his holding. Despite intensive lobbying, there were few signs that the limits on foreign ownership would be lifted.

Hollinger recently bought

Homeworks pays off in MFI sales

as consumers are concerned and the City seems to be happy too. Since the shares' most recent trough in March last year, they have outperformed the

rest of the stock market by a third. That performance seems fully rustified by both the state of the company and the economic background. Despite the noise from the building societies and others. MFI claims not to have seen much benefit from a rising housing market, suggesting that the level of house moves is pretty static. So to have raised pre-tax profits 62 per cent to £32.7m on like-for-like sales in the UK

13.5 per cent ahead in the six months to November is impressive. With the most important season of the year still ahead - MFI makes about 30 per cent of its sales in the 10 week period from Boxing Day - it is a sign of managemeot's confidence that it is raising the half-way dividend by 13 per cent.

It is not all management's doing. As the largest integrated furniture maker and seller in the country, MFI is very dependent on high volumes matching its fixed cost base. The recent downward trend in gross margins has clearly been reversed, helped by lower raw ma-terial costs and the strong pound. But the group is continuing to grab

share in a market which probably grew oo more than 6 per cent in the latest six months. The two- to threevear capital investment programme to revamp the stores and upgrade the manufacturing operations saw spending stepped up from £20.1m to £32.7m in the period and the effects are start-

ing to kick in.

MFI estimates that it is gaining double-digit percentage sales increases at stores converted to the new Homeworks format, which offers an airier feel and a wider range of products. Seventy-eight out of a chain 184-strong are now operating in the new livery, and there is scope for 80 more to be switched over in the next two or so years.

Meanwhile, this programme is continuing to release surplus space which is being let out to other retailers like Dixons and Carpetright and could be generating annualised rental income

of £4m by the year-end.

MFI's fledgling operations are also at last showing promise. Eight years after its establishment, the French Hygena chain, oow 98-strong, broke into profits of £1m last year. Despite the bleak economic environment there, that should be bettered this year, withunderlying sales up 11 per cent in the first half. It is oot clear why MFI moved into trade sales, given the travails of Wickes and other operators, but the start-up Howden Joinery business

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

MFI: at a glance

hope that consumers are starting to spend again. All will be revealed in a March trading statement, but profits of £90m this year would put the shares, down 2p at 191p, on a forward p/e ratio of 19. Hold.

No seasonal cheer for Gibbs

It is going to be a flat Christmas for shareholders in Gibbs Mew, the Salisbury-based brewer and pub owner that shocked the market yesterday with much worse profits than expected for the six months to September and a warning on prospects for the second half. Its shares, which have underperformed the sector for two years, turnhled a dramatic 90p to 209p as brokers complained they had been kept in the

dark about problems. Those problems focused on Centric, a chain of tenanted pubs in the North-west that Gibbs acquired 18 months ago to create a captive audience for its beers, which include Bishop's Tipple and Bridgers Gold Ale. Gibbs admits

that, given the chance, it would have bought pubs nearer to home but it has plainly been unable to control events so far from its home patch.

Almost one in four of the 160 tenants Gibbs inherited with the acquisition has left during the period while 39 underperforming pubs that were sold have not been replaced, knocking a hole in the division's turnover. That has meant sales have failed to match an expanded cost base. The final problem has been the cost of closing Centric's head office in Nottingham. That litany of errors led to a fall in pre-tax profits in the half year from £2.52m to £960,000, taking everyone by surprise, including Gibbs's own broker. Forecasts for the current year were slashed from

giving earnings per share of 16.5p and a same-again dividend of 10p. Gibbs Mew has plainly mismanaged its business but yesterday's share price collapse really reflects the City's deep irritation at being taken unawares. Markets dislike nothing more than unpleasant surprises.

more than £5m to maybe only £2.5m,

The latest fall means the shares have lost almost all the ground they gained so spectacularly since 1992 when the

It all seems to be going right for MFI Furniture. Its shoddy image seems to have been well and truly buried as far as consensus to the going right for MFI THE INVESTMENT COLUMN acquisition of fast-growing drinks wholesaler UK-D diluted the Gibbs wholesaler UK-D diluted the Gibbs wholesaler UK-D diluted the Gibbs as consensus well and truly buried as far family stake below 50 per cent and brought the Hedderson family into key management positions. From little more than 100p in 1992, the shares reached 468p in October 1994, since wheo they have more than halved. On current forecasts, still largely guesswork, the shares trade oo a for-

Howden sees no light in tunnels

ward multiple of 13. High enough.

Howdeo's latest half-year figures showed the engineer drilling itself into a hole once again. A poor performance in the tunnelling equipment division left the group struggling to raise profits in the six months to October, with the pre-tax total just edg-ing ahead from £11m to £11.1m,

boosted by lower interest costs.

The oews will give long-term investors a sense of dejd vs. In the early 1990s, results at the Renfrew-based company took a dive when it hit massive compensation claims after supplying equipment to dig the Store Back ninnel in Denmark.

This time it seems to have been just an unaccustomed dearth of business, a comparison which is made worse by a big order last year for the oew Hong Kong airport. Profits slumped from £2.39m last time to a loss of £710,000

The company sees signs of a pick-up and the October award of a £35m contract to build two boring machines for the Qinling rail tunnel in China gives tangible backing to that confidence. In all, orders are up 35 per cent in the division.

It is a similar story in the dominant air and gas handling equipment operation. Business wins from the Fuzhow power station in China to the tunnel ventilatioo fan for the Heathrow Express rail link helped push orders up 10 per cent and a 4 per cent rise in turnover translated into profits up 14 per cent to £11.6m.

As easily the world's biggest maker of industrial fans, Howdeo is cashing in on healthy markets in the Far East and South Africa.

Europe remains reasonable and self-help in the flat US power market helped pull the Howden Fan Company there back into the black in the second quarter, although there was a loss for the period as a whole, Orders currently stand 17 per cent.

up at £284m and the only major cloud is the effect on translation of a stronger Profits of around £33m would put the

shares, up 2.5p at 70.5p, oo an undemanding forward multiple of nine. Uo-

• Tony Ryan is stepping down as chairman of Ryanair, the low fares airline founded by his family in 1985. He is succeeded by

David Bonderman, the former US civil rights lawyer turned fund manager who is credited with reversing the fortunes of Continental, the fourth largest airline in the US. The appointment comes

a couple of months after Irish Air Partners Group, which is run by Mr Booderman, acquired a 20 per ceot stake in Ryanair. An after-tax profit of £5.07m on turnover of £101.4m was also reported yesterday by Ryanair for the 15 mooths to March 1995. Industrial output in the US rose by a surprisingly robust 0.9 per cent in November. The return of striking workers at General Motors

helped the rebound but other areas of production picked up too.

Economists said the strong figure showed that manufacturing out-

Lloyds Chemists yesterday called on shareholders to wait for

possible higher terms from rival hidders Gehe and UniChem be-

fore committing their shares to either offer. Both have until 17 January to increase their bids. Gehe said yesterday its all-cash

500p-a-share offer had become increasingly attractive given ev-

idence that the Government is set to squeeze pharmacy margins,

volatile stock market conditions and the possibility of higher interest rates. UniChem said there was oothing oew in the Gehe claims and reiterated its confidence in its cash and paper offer.

put was accelerating though oot yet at an alarming pace.

control television stations. Mr out the minority shareholders in the Telegraph group, and Mr Murdoch's News Corporation reseems to be doing well and the plan is Black has focused his atteotion cently sold its 5 per cent stake. recently oo his Canadian media to double the current 24 depots, with Brierley has a conditional agreement to pay \$106.7m for holdings. Fairfax owns the Sydney Morning Herald and the profits expected in two to three years. Hollinger's remaining 5 per ceot stake. Hollinger, which But the real bull story at MFI is the Age in Melbourne. Interest

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Three Ways to Pay

Pifco considers a hostile bid for Kenwood

Pifco, the maker of Russell Hohhs kettles and Carmeo hairdryers, is taking advice from Goldman Sachs oo whether to launch a hostile bid for Kenwood, the consumer appliances group that has seen overseas trading problems drive its shares

below their 1992 flotation price. Although Pifco has approached Kenwood on several occasions to try and forge an agreed deal, its target has re-fused to sit down for talks and held back financial information Pifco claims it needs before it

can make an offer. In the wake of its poor share price performance - falling from a high of 383p at the beginning of 1994 to only 203.5p yesterday - pressure has been mounting on Kenwood to talk to potential suitors.

The UK Active Value fund, led by Julian Treger and Brian Myerson, was yesterday defeated in its attempt to force through an extraordinary resolution calling on the company to put itself up for sale, but it

Patrick Tooher

Manchester United vesterday

ended four mooths of uncer-

tainty by appointing David Gill

from tour operator First

Choice Holidays as its finance

Mr Gill, a self-confessed

Manchester United fan, suc-

ceeds Robin Launders, who left

in the summer to become chief

executive of rival Premier

League football club Leeds

In a separate move, First Choice named Lance Moir, a

former corporate finance director at brewing and leisure

giaot Bass, as Mr Gill's

Mr Gill, 39, is understood to

role in ousting of Francis tomorrow.

have played an instrumental

United.

a bidder for Kenwood. UKAV is a veteran of similar high profile agitatioo at Scholl, Signet

and Greycoat.
If successful, the deal would triple Pifco's size and give it access to Kenwood's pan-European distributioo octwork. Michael Webber, Pifco's chairman, said yesterday: "Ideally we would like to do it on an agreed basis, but we are taking advice on all available options."

The fact that Kenwood is larger than Pifco could complicate matters. Any bid would be deemed a "reverse" takeover and so require Pifco to delist its shares before making an offer. Relisting would entail the company drawing up a working capital statement which Mr Webber says it can only do if Kenwood produces certain bal-ance sheet information.

Tim Beech, recently appointed chief executive of Kenwood, has resisted attempts to force him to provide informa-tioo about its troubled Italian subsidiary, describing the data as "commercial information".

Baron, the First Choice chief executive deposed last month

in a boardroom coup.

One of Mr Gill's first tasks

will be to improve the flow of

information between Man-

chester United and institutional investors. Since Mr

Launders' departure Man-

chester United has been the

subject of persistent takeover

rumours. At one stage these got

so out of hand that the club even took the highly unusual

step of issuing a Stock Exchange statement saying oo

hid approaches had beeo

Both Mr Gill and Mr Moir

will take up their new posts in the new year. Mr Gill will stay

on to help present First

Choice's annual results due

Man Utd is finance

chief's first choice

Jarvis Hotels has acquired the Camarvon Hotel in West London for £13.5m cash. The hotel has 176 bedrooms, conference and banqueting facilities and has planning permission for a further 39 bedrooms.

In Brief

 The British Gas joint venture First Gas Holdings has signed a £310m contract with Siemens for the construction of a gas fired power station in the Philippines. Construction should start next March.

• Shares in Newman Tonks, the building materials group, soared 26 per cent to 129p yesterday oo news that it has received an approach from FKI, the engineering group, which may lead to a bid. Analysts expect FKI may need to offer £150m to secure a takeover. FKI has suffered from problems in the UK but its US division has been performing more strongly.

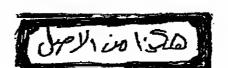
 Taylor Woodrow, the construction group, has acquired a river-side site in central London from British Land for £19m. The site. at Battersea Village on the south bank of the Thames, will be developed into 101 residential units including a 20-storey tower.

• BICC, the cable and construction group, is to invest £25m in the expansion of its extra high voltage cable production facility at Erith, Kent. The upgraded plant will be used to manufacture long-distance under-sea power cables.

ASW is selling Allied Metals, a recycling company, to Philip Environmental of Canada for £33m cash. The proceeds will be used to cut debt and provide extra working capital at ASW.

The construction industry is poised to emerge from recession following the strengthening of the private sector during 1996, according to the National Council of Building Materials Producers. It says the small rise in output for the current year should be followed by faster growth in 1997 and 1998.

	Compa			
	Tornover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Burndene ler (F)	85.5m (66.9m)	6.08m (3.6m)	3.61p (2.47p)	20 (1.9250)
Count Parkaging (F)	24.7m (22.7m)	2 16m (1 43m)	40 (2.70)	1.375¢ (1.375¢)
Clibbs Mour (I)	20 Sep. (2; 2m)	0.96m (2.52m)	"5.250 (14.30s)	49 (40)
Howden Group (F)	213m (212m)	11 1m (11 0m)	2.40 (2.6m)	10 (0.95p)
Hentest Armity (f)	54 Jan (49 Au)	१ श्रीय (४ (ए/म)	4.65p (10.51p)	450 (450)
James (S)	3.44m (3.01m)	0 05m (0 15m)	1,280 (3,750	-(-)
SET! Familians (I)	441m (381m)	32.7m (20.1m)	3,850 (2.37pl	1.7p (1.50)
Polar (I)	123m (155m)	0.34st (T.37m)	3.57e (4.86p)	75 CP
Printer Half (1)	79.7m ()	-0.34m (-0.36m)	-6.78p (-16,12g)	1
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Machinia Mallanda (A)	-0.57m (1.00m)	-0.53co (-0.18m)	-Lip (-2#	<u>.H</u>



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Data Bank SEAQ VOLUME

flotation is worrying many fund managers. Because of its size, the building society, under existing rules, will enjoy im-mediate entry into the Footsie blue-chip index, thereby pre-senting a huge problem for the managers of the index tracker

They are duty bound to hold stakes in Pootsie stocks. But when dealings start, Halifax shares will be owned by former members of the society with tracker funds probably not accounting for a solitary share between them. So early dealings are likely to be chaotic, with fund managers scram-bing to build suitable positions as the price probably runs away from them.

Although many Halifax members will no doubt quickly cash in their chips, the pos-sibility of stock market turmoil, and oo donbt representations

The expected £12bn Halifax has prompted the Footsie Indices Committee to ponder whether the so-called "fast track" entry should be withdrawn from Halifax and its shares excluded from Footsie until the quarterly review fol-

lowing the listing.

But the committee will not give harassed fund managers once again defied the mermuch of a breather, even if "fast track" status is withdrawn.

Halifax is due to float in early June. The next committee meeting will take place in late June with index newcomers slotted in around the end of the month. So tracker funds will, even if the building society is denied immediate inclusion, only have a few weeks of Halifax trading before the biggest building society of them all goes into Footsie and they are obliged to be on floard.

cover from Friday's jitters with Footsie ending 21.4 points higher at 3,993.8 as, during



MARKET REPORT

Fund managers want to push Halifax off fast track

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

Commercial Union, the insurance giant, was back in the chants of gloom and their pre-dictions of imminent crash or a peak. Allianze, the German correction. The reappearance group, remains the favoured of corporate activity helped predator but BAT Industries is sentiment. The huge US aero said to have made unrecipromerger and rather more modcated advances. It has been susest excursions in the domestic insurance broking and engi-neering husinesses offered repected for some time that BAT could demerge into stand-alone financial services and tobacco groups. A deal with CU, or another group, would strengthen its Eagle Star and Allied Dupbar financial opernewed hope that bid action could transform the market at-

The corporate window could be much more difficult to open after oext year's election and ations. BAT fell 12p to 478.5p. The insurance broking deal involved Lloyd Thompson bidcompanies with aggression in mind could be tempted to flex

made headway. The other deal could involve FKI, an engineer, and Newman Tonks, a building materials group. After New-man disclosed FKI had made an approach its shares jumped 26.5p to 129p; FKI dipped

1.5p to 200p.
1.5p to 200p.
British Aerospace shrugged off the proposed \$45bm Boeing/McDonnell Douglas merger, rising 11p to 1,136.5p.
Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull and Credit Lyonnais Laing were among houses offering

T&N gained 5p to 175.5p on suggestions GKN had made a £250m offer for its high-tech materials division.

Rexam, the paper and pack-aging group, eased 1p to 337p after Merrill Lynch trimmed its profit forecasts. It is now looking for £170m this year against £177m and £195m (£205m)

moved ahead 2.25p to 124p, highest for five years. Figures are due oo Thursday. Oxford Biomedica was

steady after Friday's disastrous debut, closing up 3p to 51.5p against the 88p placing. High-ams, a business services group, enjoyed a strong opening, hitting 91p and closing at 87.5p from its 72p placing. Cirqual, a metals group, switched to full listing after less than six months on AIM. The shares day. The company and its

built on Friday's exuberance, gaining a further 25p to 210p.

Eyecare Products slumped 9.5p to 18p after a profit warning and flat profits from Gibbs

Asda, the superstores group, Shares of Pan Andean mouths ago when it was dis-Bolivian exploration was not commercial, are quierly staging a revival. They rose 4.5p

At one time the shares were riding at 135.5p; the realisation the oil being sought crashing to less than 30p in a mouths on AIM. The shares were unchanged at 177.5p.

Memory Corporation, which repairs defective computer chips, slipped 2.5p to 42.5p after raising £1.36m through a placing at 45p. AND International, the electronic publisher.

Let's on Eviden's emberance.

> Airsprung Furniture was firm at 245.5p as stockbroker Bell Lawrie White upgraded its profit forecasts. It expects



Marrie Reberg erf betereberger beter beter



Hollywood could be a role model for industry

So evidently there is only from in the world for two manufacturers of large civil aircraft. Had it not been for European government subsidies for the Airbus consortium we might have been down to ooe. The Boeing takeover of McDonnell Douglas seems the demonstration of one powerful trend in international business taken nearly to its ultimate conclusion: concentratioo of an industry into a global duopoly.

If this is the most extreme example there are many other industries heading in the same direction of cross-border mergers. In international airlines there is the proposed code-sharing, or joint marketing agreement, between British Airways and American Airlines. That is a concentration of power rather than of ownership, but cross-border merg-ers seem close. Just yesterday a possible merger between Luthansa and SAS was reported. In telecommunications there is the proposed takeover of MCI by BT; in pharmaceuticals the merger between SmithKline and Beecham; and in finance must of the Londoo merchant banks have been taken over by large commercial banks, usually continental.

But parallel to this is another, equally pervasive trend: downsizing. In just about every industry in the developed world large companies are shedding labour. They are outsourcing an increasing proportion of their activities, farming large amounts of management out to consultancies, getting rid of non-core activities, and all the while driving down the costs of their core

business by sacking people.

Boeing and McDonnell Douglas are good examples, too, of this second trend, for both downsized their workforces through the early 1990s. although Boeing has receotly been hiring again, MCI is nne of America's most enthusiastic downsizers and, in actual numbers of jobs shed, BT is



Hamish McRae

Companies that can establish a global monopoly will go out and do so; everyone else has to cut costs to stay in business

Vast screeds have been written by the management gurus about the rights and wrongs of downsizing, with some of the early enthusiasts now recanting, other management scribes have examined the process of concentration. But it is hard tn find a synthesis: something that pulls together these apparently conflicting aspects of global business into a coherent explaoation.

I suspect we will have to wait few more years before we really understand what has bappeoed and why, but it is worth setting out some ideas at this stage, for the twin trends seem to bave some way to run.

There is, for a start, the blunt explanation offered by a colleague: concentration stems from the fact that companies that can establish something else has to cut costs to stay in business.

son for growing concentration, which is marketing. Consumers

the world over are so bont-

barded with information that

they have very little spare space

of mind to take on board a large

number of alternative suppliers.

So any organisation offering a

one-stop shop, like a code

sharing airline, or a transatlantic

telecommunications tie-up, will

gain at the expense of a frag-

mented competitor. A brilliant

marketer, a Richard Branson

for example, can challenge

global giants, but such chal-lengers are few. The result: a handful of global brands.

start-up costs of small busi-nesses, and clearly a compar-

otive advantage in the cost of

management. Personal com-

puters have made it possible to

start, promote and develop

try costs and it is also cheaper

to manage a specialist provider.

So in many areas, the optimal

size for a business has come

down. As a result, comparative

advantage in management is in-

creasingly achieved by better handling of relations with sub-

contractors, rather than run-

ning a more efficient factory.

products and services the com-

mercial world offers, the more

the big producers have to buy in specialist services.

Is there a synthesis? One aca-

demic who has examined the

importance of intellectual cap-

ital in the business world is Pro-fessor Keith Bradley of the

Open University. He argues that the best model that we have

at the moment is Hollywood.

The big studios are needed

because of the enormous risks

involved in each production.

But they rely cotirely on sub-

cootractors - actors, directors,

specialist service providers - to

manufacture their product.

And they rely on agencies to as-

semble these together. Sure,

Hollywood is an extreme

model. But expect other

industries to look more like it,

in structure, if not in output.

more complicated the

sses at much lower en-

Against this trend is a fall in

It is a perceptive comment. You can see the twin trends clearly in a company such as BT, for it faces increasing competition at bome and hence has to cut costs here, but would like to establish dominance (or at least parity with AT&T) globally, hence the merger with MCI.

But that does not really explain what has changed, or rather how change interacts with the existing situation of a company to force it to behave in these ways. There are at least three big changes taking place which alter the optimal size of

one is the rise in the scale of risk. However hard companies work in try to lay nff the risk, they often end up having to take larger and larger ones themselves. Thus the oil companies now almost always explore for oil in consortia; they hunt in a pack. Yet when exploring, these enormous companies - Shell is currently the most profitable group in the world – still can ooly run a small handful of big bets" at any one time. Very much the same applies in pharmaceuticals or in civil air-

craft. But here, and more obviously in computer software, management consultancy or investmeot banking, a secood force seems also to be evident. This is the need for a concentration of clever people, a critical mass of intellectual capital, which you have, as a company, to "own". You cannot get by in, say, investment banking, by hiring in subcontractors every time you oeed an international takeover specialist: you have to build a team and keep it together even when there is not enough business to support it, because if you don't you won't

get the business in the first place, There may not be the need for quite the same degree of commercial concentration in investment banking as in civil aircraft manufacturing, but in both cases the size and quality eam is vital to success. bave to be big.

Japanese electro-bikes will not outrun the Zeta, vows inventor

There was potentially bad news for Sir Clive Sinclair yesterday when Hoods and Yamaha announced plans for cheaper ranges of their electric bicycles. Sir Clive, you may remember, invented one of the earliest electrically powered bikes when he launched the Zeta in 1994. This is a power unit that, when attached to the back wheel of a bike, turns it into a mini-moped. Puffed-out cyclists flick a switch to get battery-powered assistance

when climbing upbill. Honda will launch a Racoon series of electro-bikes in Japan in February at prices starting at ¥79,500 (£421). Yamaha is also getting in on the act with a lower-priced

range in January. Sir Clive remains unfazed, however. "Im not in the slightest bit worried. Their products will probably be much more expensive than ours - too expensive for the volume market, I suspect. But they will give credibility to the marketplace."
Sir Clive says he has sold

15,000 Zetas so far, priced at a Honda-whipping £145. So pleased is be with sales that he bopes to increase the marketing spend next year. Hopefully things will go more smoothly than at one press test at the time of the launch. Then, a pre-production Zeta surprised its rider when it shot backwards and crashed into a bus shelter.

Sir Malcolm Field, the former chief executive of WH Smith who stepped down a year ago, has found an appropriate new berth. He has picked up a non-executive directorship at the Stationery Office, the old HMSO. Also signing up for duty is Sir Michael Partridge, the former permanent secretary of the Department of Social Security, Sir Malcolm, who presided over a calamitous profit warning at WH Smith last May, will at least find himself in familiar territory. The Stationery Office is also trying to rid itself of its old

Liffe Financial Futures

PEJOPLE & BUSINESS



First off the mark: Sir Clive Sinclair, who launched the Zeta power unit in 1994, is not worried by competition

public service ethos. And if anyone wirnts to know anything his at manila envelopers and Basildon Bond writing paper then he must be

Still oo WH Smith, the newsagen it group has found a new director of corporate affairs after an 18-mooth search with ich followed Kevin

Hawkins' departure to Safeway. The oew man is Tim

Blythe, formerly of the . financial PR firm, Brunswick. · A youthful-looking 41, Mr Blythe found the offer (and the money) too tempting after two and a half years' honest toil at Lincoln's Inn Fields. Previously he was head of corporate affairs at Dairy Crest and head of PR

at NatWest Bank. "I always wanted a top job in-house. And my mother never let me

do a paper round," he said. Like a true Stakhanovite, he chose to take no time off between jobs. He cleared his desk at Brunswick on Friday and was installed at WH Smith's head office yesterday. Sadly the receptionist didn't seem to know this. "Sorry, we don't have him listed."

ma 123 "

S. Andrew

gaham-Dixon

The Berkeley Playhouse, the Mayfair table-dancing club which is raising funds via the Enterprise Investment Scheme, has caused a flurry of cheque writing in the City. The group has already raised £1.6m of its target £2.1m, with new funds coming in at the rate of £50,000 a day.

The largest investment has come from one gent who bas put in £100,000 (a definite lifetime free membership

Though the original deadline for applications for investors was 24 December. the operations director, Edward Sunley, says he has received several requests from City bankers and dealers asking him to extend the deadline until they get their Christmas bonuses. will probably oblige. It would be churlish not to.

A big row is brewing in the Cotswolds over who should be granted the honour of cutting the turf at the start of the long-awaited Broadway bypass. Michael Heseltine, no ess, was drafted in by local. Tory councillor John Cole. Councillor Cole was no sooner crowing about his coup than it all went horribly

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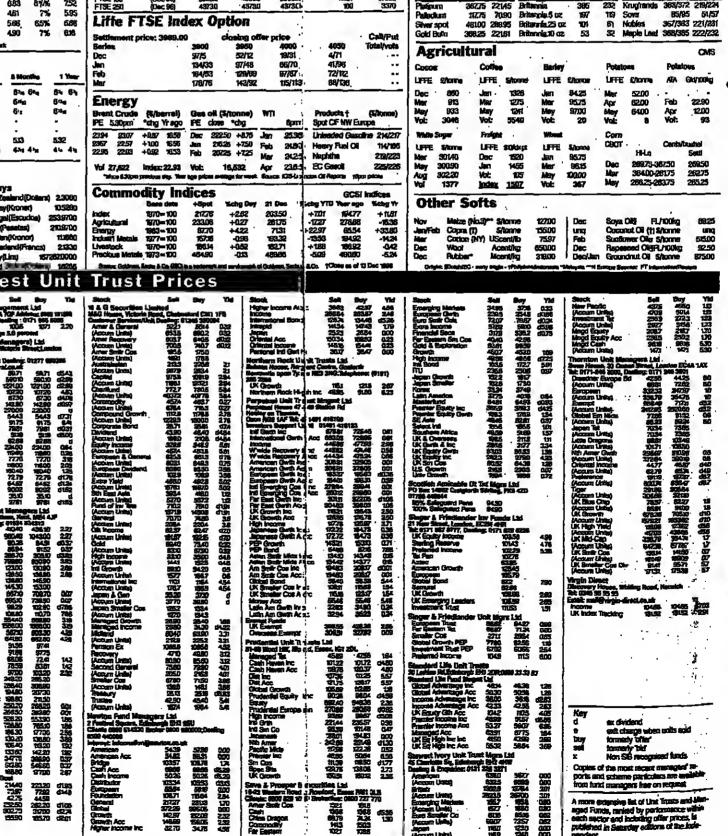
wrong. The Labour-dominated council intervened, saying that Deputy Prime Minister though Mr Heseltine may be. he was not the man for a local job such as this. Councillor Cole is angry that his networking is going to waste.
"I shall be quite upset if we don't get him here."

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SPORT FOR ART'S SAKE

A new book offers a fascinating history of the different images of sport through the ages. By **Andrew Graham-Dixon**

few years ago, the pow-ers that be decided to redecorate the home and away dressing-rooms at Wembley Stadium. The designer responsible had what he thought was a marvellous idea, which was to paint a large mural in each based nn the early 20thof the Italian Futurist Umberto Boccioni, The Dynamism of a Footballer. This interestingly abstract image may still be seen in the away changing-room, but in the home dressing- room it was immediately whitewashed over and replaced with three red lions. Umberto Boccioni? Italian Futurism? Did Graham Taylor not like that.

The British sportsman is not traditinnally nuted for his art appreciation, but Peter Knhnst's new book, Sport: A Cultural History in the Mirror of Art, aims to change all that. This is that rarity, an art book aimed at people interested in sport, and it deserves to succeed if only on the grounds of the publisher's bravery. This fascinating anthology of sportrelated paintings, prints and pho-tographs turns out to be particularly rich on the subject of football. The Boccioni painting Taylor so disliked is naturally present but so are much less familiar images, one of the most remarkable being a late 17th-century Florentine engraving which proves (among other things) that Italy always was the most advanced

European footballing nation. Alessandro Cecchini's 4 Game of Calcio on the Piazza Santa Croce, 1689, shows two teams lined up against one another at the start of a football match - "calcio" being an Italian forerunner of football - in one of Florence's most picturesque city squares. The players, quaintly, are holding hands, rather as modern international footballers sometimes do while their national anthem is being played. Both teams appear to be playing the same tactical formation, and a fiendishly, im-. 15 men up front, 11 in midfield, with a hack line made up (as the rules of calcio allowed) of no fewer than 12 goalkeepers. The result of the game in question remains unknown but it seems safe to assume that it was a typically Italian, low-scoring affair. At a time when football in most other countries was liable to be played by a mutley rabble, entirely without rules or referees, generally using some improvised object such as the severed head of an executed criminal for a ball, Cecchini's Game of Calcio looks like a comparatively ordered event. The effect, however, may be deceptive, because once the match got going it was still a very much rougher business than the game played now.
According to the erudite Mr

Kuhnst it was Antonio Scaino, a Ferrarese courtier, huntsman, author and footballer (a true Renaissance man) who was the first person to describe the appeal of a sport yet to be known as the Beautiful Game: most sporting activity once was.



"Football may not be regulated with as much art as other sports," wrote Scaino, "but it provides the spectators with such pleasure because the game is superior to all others in imitating a real battle with all its sudden shifts of fate. The players tumble over one another, now here, now there, and it is a game that more than any other shows the mettle of the us that sport was not, originally, a runners and the dever and power- bealth-enhancing leisure activity ful wrestlers... Fatalities were not unbut a preparation for war. The
common - a total of eight players
English longbowman of the 15th of a game in Siena in the mid-16th century; and on the evidence of this book it seems fairly safe to say that the current television advertisement for Adidas, based on a 15th-century fresco cycle by Bernardino Betti (surely a first in sports advertising) is indeed a pure fantasy. Those who have seen the ad will recall Alessandro del Piero, of Juventus, skipping through a crowd of bamboozled Resance men in tights to score a brilliant virtuoso goal - but of course during the Renaissance itself his legs probably would have been broken before be ever received the ball. The

Jones would probably have been regarded as a luxury player.

It can be difficult for those of us living in the late 20th century to grasp just how much more violent

likes of Del Piero would never have

lasted the pace of 12-goalie calcio. Back in the days when manslaugh-

ter was no more than a bookable of-

fence, even someone like Vinnie

Sports: A Cultural History does much to remedy that. The often vivid ilhistrations to early instruction manuals for wrestlers, boxers or fencers (a particularly gruesome example bere being an anonymous early seventeenth-century woodcut called, with graphic accuracy, On Guard Position: Stab Through the Eye) remind

Equestrianism, likewise, was a fundamentally martial skill, horses being the armoured vehicles of yore. Military training was one obvious and explicit function of the elaborate royal tournaments staged from the Middle Ages until the early Renaissance, and depicted with

woodcut of that daring young man. varying, degrees of competence Arcangelo Iliccaro, gymnast extra-(most brilliantly perhaps in the ordinaire and tutor in acrobatics to etchings of Lucas Cranach the Elthe King of France, jumping the der) by a large number of artists, but death-defying salto mortale through even the becalmed equestrian paint- no fewer than 10 hoops. The likes of Del Piero would never have lasted the pace of

12-goalie calcio. Back in the days when manslaughter was no more than a bookable offence, even someone like Vinnie Jones would probably have been regarded as a luxury player

century owed their proficiency to a royal statute which insisted that every fit and able yeoman should practise archery on the village green at least three times a week. The statute was enforced extremely rig-orously using the stocks, among other things, as a powerful incentive to comply. But Henry V's chief concern was not (it need hardly be said) the physical well-being of the nation. Compulsory archery practice was sport perhaps, but sport in deadly earnest - as the French whn died in their thousands under the terrible rain of English arrows at Agincourt were to discover.

ings of Stubbs, painted late in the 18th century, still carried vestiges of military symbolism. The steeliness of milord's gaze and the hauteur of his bearing, unmistakably if un-derstatedly conveyed by the painter, have their own significance. The British gentleman's passion for bloodstock, for hunting and for horseracing, was not as trivial, not as merely diverting, as some now assume it to have been. Every time the aristocrat rode out at bounds, he was rehearsing his role in the cavalry of the British Empire. This strand of associations has not yet been cut: modern commentators on the

As weaponry became more sophisticated and the fitness of the human body became consequently less essential to victory in warfare, many of the most ancient and aggressive sporting activities changed in character, becoming softer, more sophisticated, more stylised. Peter Kuhnst believes that gradually "combat became choreography, while strength and speed became pose and posture" and the images of sport in art bear him out to some extent. The rough-and-tumble of the ioust or tournament ceased to interest the courtiers of later times and they mastered other and more el-

that brightened Wembley's dressing-rooms until shown the red card in Graham Taylor's regime egant tests of horsemanship. Dressing for the primitive spectacle that sage, which seems even to the laying tremained. His Between Rounds, Grand National, whether inten-tionally or not, also invoke the military roots of equestrian sport when they refer to the race (as they. man like something of a museum piece among modern equestrian do every year) as a "cavalry charge."
Art reminds us too that even acsports, is indeed that. Its roots lie in the courtly ideals of the Baroque robatics and gymnastics, among the most graceful of modern sports, era, when the consummate display of control, over self and horse, was were originally conceived of as held to signal the consummate polways of hardening the body, of makish and civilisation of the rider - yet ing it more flexible and agile, in it is only by contemplating the imreadiness for combat. There was alages of art (whether they be Van Dyck's prancing portraits of Charles ways an element of emberant, cardemonstrating his equestrian nivalesque showmanship involved too, because gymnastics owes its oriprowess or the wonderfully effete gins as much to the fairground as images in old manuals of horsemanship) that the true history of this to military necessity - plain to see in a wonderful late 16th-century sport can be understood. Combat has indeed become choreography.

Between Rounds (left) by the American painter Thomas Eakins captures the darker side of man

while Dynamism of a Footballer (above) by Italian Futurist Umberto Boccioni was the basis for a

Ken Jones as often made the point, in the Juges of this newspaper, that boxing is not really a sport at all - and to is quite right, at least in the sen e that it is the only modso much of the violence, intensity and threat of warfare. Of course boxing too is somewhat less brutal than it once was, as Thomas Rowlandson's early 19th-century print, Boxing Match for 200 Guineas between Dutch Sam and Medley demonstrates: in a ring made purely of spectators squatting on the bare ground (this is the origin of the term ring," which has become puzzlingly square since the legalisation of boxing) we see two men with bare knuckles squaring up to one another. The inscription attached to it reads thus: "At one o'clock the two cham-pions entered the ring and Sam had for his second Harry Lee while Joe Ward officiated for Medley. After a severe and bloody contest of 40 rounds victory was decided in favour of Sam." But although nobody was fighting 40 rounds by the end of the 19th century, and although the contestants had been equipped with gloves by then, the great American painter Thomas Eakins still saw box-

1899, is one of the masterpieces of sporting art. A scrawny boxer tended by his seconds slumps back into his corner; he is a meagre hero and his body gives off a pallid, slightly other-worldly light. The centre of the spectacle, he is like a glow-worm and also (perhaps the painter wanted us to think this) a little like a latterday Christ. He is a sacrificial victim certainly. Boxing tends to bring out more in painters than many other sports, perhaps because it is such a primal spectacle, both unpleasant and also moving in the starkness with which it shows the darker side of man to man. Bullfighting, which inspired both Goya and Picasso to create remarkable works of art, (sadly omitted by Kuhnst) is a similar case - a sport almost too troubling

to be thought of simply as such.

But in the 20th century, when the vast majority of athletes have ridden and run and jumped and played ball for a less savage sense of achievement than that of the boxer or the bullfighter, the shadow of true, lifeendangering violence has mostly disappeared from sporting view - al-though it has, occasionally, reared its head, notably in totalitarian circumstances. Both Stalin and Hitler consciously revived an ancient and essentially warlike cult of sport in Russia and Germany in the 1930s, a fact microred by the fondness both dictators shared for chilly Neoclassical paintings and sculptures of the male and female athlete.

In Germany, the Aryan master ace was to demonstrate its fitness to rule the world partly through the achievement of daunting physical fitness: and the paintings of athletes produced in such quantities under Nazism, by the likes of now-forgotten artists like Gerhard Keil or Jürgen Wegener, were designed to make modern Germans look as much as possible like ancient Greeks - as well-muscled as the nudes of Phidias, they were to resemble Homeric heroes, ready for the epic adventures of the 10,000-year Reich. The most terrifying of all the images to record Hitler's programme of "national physical rearmament" through the pursuit of sport is not a painting. It is Leni Riefenstahl's unforgettable propaganda photograph, Mass Exercises in the Olympic Stadium, Berlin, 1936. Viewed from far above the ground, we see endless re-lays of men, bare-chested, performing press-ups in the shadow of the Olympic flag-line after line after line of them, dwarfed to the size of ants by the lofty perspective, a never-end-ing army of white athletes stretching as far as the eye can see. Only a picture can take you back to the past with such instant immediacy. Looking at Riefenstahl's extraordinary, brilliant, vile image, you can perhaps, albeit more than half a century later, begin to sense how sweet the victories of the great black sprinter Jesse Owens, gained in that same stadium,





Black predicts bright future with BAA

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Roger Black predicted yesterday that the new British Athletes' As-sociation can put a smile back on the face of the sport and start filling its

The double Olympic silver medal-list believes that the days of high-pro-file rows like Michael Johnson being banned from running at Crystal Palace and the pay dispute involving Linford Christie, Colin Jackson and John Regis may be over.

Communication harriers with the British Athletic Federation had been dismantled amid a new spirit of co-operation, Black de-clared at the launch of the association in London. No sanctions exist for athletes who choose not to toe the BAA line, but the group of leading athletes who turned up to yesterday's launch were all hopeful that the new relationship with the governing hody would lead to a

smoother operation. There are 19 directors of the limited company, including Black, ecutive means that they are in a Christie, Jackson, Regis, Jonathan position to deliver athletes."

Edwards and Sally Gunnell. Al-ready, they have formed a new company with the BAF to run televised meetings from next year. And Black and the high jumper Geoff Parsons were at the table for negotiations about a new television con-

Alan Pascoe, responsible for sales of sponsorship for British Athletics, said: "The fact that the athletes are now a concerted group has made a huge difference to prospective sponsors. The presence of a full-time ex-

Black admitted: "There were a lot of unhappy athletes during the 1995 season. Relationships with the federation, sponsors and the press were probably at an all-time low. For the first time the athletes started communicating with one another. Then we recognised we had to be at the

heart of the sport The most important thing about us is that we care about athletics. Hopefully, this will be the beginning of a new environment for the sport We want to make it more attractive to watch. None of us likes walking mto an empty stadium."

Gordon puts Anchorians on top

Hockey

Neil Gordon shot Anchorians to the top of the Nastro Azzurro South Premier with a well-taken hat-trick as the Kent side beat Maidenhead 4-2 to go two points clear of Hampstead and Westminster. Mike Gillett got the fourth with Adrian Hurley and Andy Pearce responding for Maidenhead. Hampstead, previous leaders on goal difference, dropped points in a 2-2 draw at Paddington to Cup

giant-killers High Wycombe.

After Nigel Land had twice given the Middlesex club the lead, Wycombe fought back with goals from Andy Burroughs and Roh Cheatle. Wycombe, having been reduced at one stage to nine men following temporary suspensions, scored the equaliser with four min-

utes remaining. Chichester, with goals from Andrew Savory, Brian Lock, Gregg Watson and Danny Jaeger, beat Beckenham 4-2 to slip into third place. Beckenham's goals came from David Knox and David Penfold. The much-awaited Division One

clash between Purley and Old Cranleighans ended in a convincing 5-8 win for Purley. Paddy Osborn, who was the first player to 150 National League goals while with Reading earlier in the season, scored twice with a brace also from Doug Bolger and the fifth from P J Weller.

Old Cranleighans' Welsh in-ternationals, David Knapp and Jon Rees, were unable to respond although there was perhaps some excuse for their third international, Don Williams, whose wife, Gail, gave hirth to their first child a few hours

Cowboys

defense

to the

rescue

American football

For much of the season it has

looked improbable, occasionally

close to impossible, but in the

end the Dallas Cowboys

wrapped up their fifth consec-

utive NFC East title with a

game to spare. It came follow-

ing Sunday's defeat of the New

England Patriots and owed

much to their resilience, and not

a little to the faltering challenges

As has become the custom

these days, their victory came

thanks to their league-leading

defense, which restricted the

high-octane Patriots attack to six

points. The Cowboys offense found scoring almost as much of a problem, but four Chris Bo-niol field goals were enough fur

The demise of the Cowboys has been widely predicted al-

most from the moment of their

third Super Bowl triumph in four years last January, but de-

spite a 1-3 start, and a contin-

uing backdrop of criticism, they

look capable of mounting an-

other formidable play-off run.

sional champings is a particu-larly bitter blow for the

Washington Redskins, who at one stage led the East with a 7-1 record. Their most recent re-

verse during a disastrous second

half to the season, saw them

beaten 27-26 by Kevin Butler's

last kick of the game for the

Cardinals in Arizona. It was the

Redskins' sixth defeat in seven games and keeps them out nf

the play-offs for another year. The loss crystallised the

NFC, with Green Bay, Carolina, San Francisco, Dallas, Min-

nesora and Philadelphia assured

of the six play-off spots, though who plays whom and where has still to be determined.

The 49ers responded well to

last week's home defeat by Car-

olina by becoming the first team in 13 games to visit Pittsburgh's

Three Rivers Stadium and depart

with a win. Steve Young threw

three first-half touchdowns, one

to Jerry Rice, in a 25-15 victory. "A heck of a lot better than last week," George Seifert, the 49ers

Over in the AFC, Jack-

sonville's fourth success in a row - 20-13 over Seattle - kept

them in the play-off hunt, a

game behind Indianapolis and

Kansas City. Those two met at

Arrowhead Stadium with the Colts emerging 24-19 winners.

as the Chiefs - a popular pick for the Super Bowl before the

season started - continue their

What they would give for

Their 20-13 win in Houston

Cincinnati's late-season form.

took their record to 6-2 since

Bruce Coslet replaced David

Shula as head coach. Coslet has

finally got the Bengals achieving

the results their talent warrants and he was deservedly rewarded with a contract that keeps in

in charge until the year 2000

NFL STANDINGS

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The Cowboys' status at divi-

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MATT TENCH

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Racing JOHN COBB

There are two distinctly different ways of looking at the King George VI Chase, which, with only eight shopping days left to Christmas is approaching all too quickly. The Boxing Day spectacular can either be regarded as an extension of the festive season, a gift for One Man which he has only to turn up for to collect, or the race in which

his limitations will be exposed. There is a danger that One Man is becoming confused with that other front-running, exuberant grey that duminated Boxing Day for so long. But, in truth, his achievements are some way behind those of Desert Orchid and even his biggest payday, when winning last season's King George, was achieved against a couple uf horses performing far below their best in Monsieur Le Cure

Cup, when he finished legless behind Imperial Call and it is difficult to understand how Gordon Richards, his trainer. could suggest that last Saturday's abandoned Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock, in which One Man would have conceded 12Ib to the Grand National winner Rough Quest, would have been no more than an exercise spin.

"I would have liked 10 grand for a gallop," Richards said, "but he'll have to gallop at home for nowt now.

Rough Quest will be among One Man's apponents at Kempton on Boxing Day if he comes through a prep race over hurdles at Folkestone today. It will be only the second run

over hurdles of his career for Terry Casey's 10-year-old, having fallen on his first attempt at Uttoxeter in May 1991. Today's opposition is far from weak, with the former useful

One Man's fallibility was laid Flat handicapper Captain Jack turn at Chepstow, when only bare in the Cheltenham Gold among the opposition, while fourth to Belmont King. among the opposition, while David Nicholson gives a British debut to Destin D'Estruval, a

winner over fences in France. Nahthen Lad, another King George entry, was also an intended runner in the Tommy Whittle and could instead appear over timber this week. He is entered at Bangor tomorrow.

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Bally Clover (Folkestone 1.00) NB: Netherby Said (Southwell 2.40)

The winner of the Sun Alliance Chase at the Cheltenham Festival last season, he had earlier been left trailing in the Revnoldstown Chase at Ascot

by Mr Multigan. Noel Chance, the latter's trainer, confirmed yesterday that Mr Mulligan is on course for the Kempton race, despite disappointing on his seasonal re-

"Mr Mulligan bad a problem with his back at Chepstow, which I hope we have corrected," Chance said. "He screwed badly over the fifth or sixth fence and lost his confidence after

"He was a bit tender after the race and we've manipulated and massaged his back and it appears to have done the trick. I'm hoping that's the problem otherwise I'm in trouble.

"He's a big horse. You can't alter him much during a race and be'll have Richard Johnson back on board for Kempton.'

Chance considers that Mr Mulligan represents good eachway value for Kempton and he is clearly not alone. The Tote offered the chestmut at 20-1 earyesterday but were soon forced to tailor their prices in line with the uther leading firms after a barrage of money. He is now a top-priced 14-1 chance

ers can catch up with the latest developments - best prices are in bold - in this sphere with The ■ Ladbrokes have made Penny A Day and Khayrawani their 10-1 joint-favourites for the 1997 Ladbroke, when the weights were released yesterday

Independent's Tuesday service. King George VI Chase: Sound Man is a top priced 8-1 with the Tote - William Hill go only 4-1. Welsh National: Fellow Countryman was well backed

yesterday with all the leading firms and is now 8-1. The Tote also bet un Samrday's Betterware Cup at Ascot 7-2 Inchcailloch, 4-1 Unguided Missile. 9-2 Dextra Dove, 9-2 Major Bell, 5-1 Turning Trix, 6-1 Go Ballis-tic, 12-1 Travado, 14-1 Hill Of Tullow, 16-1 River Bounty, 20-1 Strong Medicine, 25-1 Bradbury Star.

King George VI Chase (3m) Tate Borse (Tipiner) 4-6 Ome Mee (G Richards) 5-1 8-1 Rough Quest (T Casey) 5-1 and May (E O'Grady) 12-1 Brond Promise (G Hubberd 141 141 10-1 Bartos Bank (D Nicholson 14-1 tehthen Lad (Mrs J Pitmari) 14-1 20-1 25-1 Aligem (F Doctment) 20-1 Mr Mhallates (Noel T Chance) Trying Again (D Gandolfo) 18-1 16-1 12-1 Sullenget Dy Luc (M Ploe) 20-1 doubtful Contidut Be Better (C Brooks) 23-1 doubtful 33-1 Suny Bay (C Brooks) 25-1 40-1 33-1 Crystal Sairit (1 Beiding) 33-1 33-1 Kadi (D Nicholson) 33-1 **50-1** 40-1 66-1 ouble Symptomy (C Brooks) Datte Regists (Miss H Krisht) 100-1 150-1 Each-way one fifth the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Namoton, Thursday, 26 December)

Weish National Handica	p Chase	(3m 5f 110yo	<u>is)</u>
		ags Hill	Tate
Believont King (P Nicholig/(Ost5lb)	-1	41	4.1
	7-1	8-1	8-1
St Mellion Falrysy (D Nicholson/10st) 1	¥	8-1	8-1
Greenhii Tare Austy (P Hobbs/9s:13b)		8-1	8-1
)-1.	10-1	10-1
Pull Of Quite (Miss 15 Knight/Ret 13th) 11	2-1	12-1	10-1
Fellow Countryman (K.Bailey/OstSib)		8-1	8-1
Mooreroft Boy (D Nicholson/10st8(b) 1		16-1	16-1

2.20 GAS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3m

BETTENG: 6-4 Seperiop, 2-1 Tollywagger, 7-2 Latte Lander, 6-1 D'Arbiny

2.50 HOLE ACROSS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,800 added 2m

34221-2 JUDICIAL FEED (7) N Triviar 7 12 0 R Conflity B 435-445 FLASH OF RESULE (36) (CD) 8 Meccegget 10 12 0

P40-462 CARDENDEN (54) (CD) J Barday 8 10 1 ...

7-1 Cross Camon, 20-1 Ricky Dec

PP-0360 CATRON LADY (LD) R Caggs 6 10 0...

Inchcailloch the Ascot favourite

The Cesarewitch winner, Inchcailloch, attempts a rare big-race double when he attempts to win the Betterware Cup at Ascot on Saturday, Having swapped stay-ing handicaps on the Flat for a three miles handicap chase at Ascot, Inchcailloch heads the

Tote's betting at 7-2, with the

Gordon Richards-trained Unguided Missile a 4-1 chance. "We'll go for the Betterware and then he'll be due a holiday," his trainer, Jeff King, said. A re-cent winner at Sandown, Inchcailloch may return there for the

Whitbread Gold Cup in April.

Unguided Missile, who over-

came jumping errors to land the Betterware from Rough Quest last year, is "in great shape", ac-

cording to Richards.
Alistair Whillans's Major Bell will make the haul from Scotland in an attempt to go one better than when second to Strong Promise at Ascot last month.

ingstoke area struck łucky insterday's first 49's draw, the big bookmakers response to the National Lottery. The man, a regular customer, placed a bet of 50p on five numbers coming out of the drum in the game set up by Ladbrokes, William Hill

Punter hits rich seam A Coral customer in the Basand Coral, and five minutes later he was £50,000 richer.

The odds against someone selecting five of the six numbers drawn are 99,999-1. The customer watched the draw live in the Coral betting shop and left. with a wry smile after his final number popped out.

BLINKERED FORST TIME: None.

for the big Irish handicap due

to be run at Leopardstown on

Nicholson said: "Peuny A Day

looks well handicapped on 11st

2lh and Mary Reveley's un-

beaten gelding looks as if there

could be more improvement to

come. Khayrawani is another

who has done nothing but im-

prove and warrants respect."

Urubande, last season's Sun

Alliance Novices' Hurdle and

Aintree Hurdle winner, has

been allotted top weight of

12st and the soonsors quote him

at 20-1, while Triumph Hurdle

hero, Paddy's Return has 11st

Ladirohea: 10-1 Penny A Day & Khayrawani, 12-1 Notompianingbut, Bolino Star, King Of Kerry & Femily Way, 14-1 Costney Lad, Dard-lat, Quest Performance, Mystical Cay, Hill So-ciety, Mayastra & Lady Ardel, 45-1 Belsevier, Peddy's Return, Executive Design, Tibetan & Palerie 20-1

31b and is 16-1.

The firm's spokesman Ed

Saturday, 11January.

h National Handicap C	hase (3m 5f 110)yds)
iner/weight) Corpl	William Hill	Tota
Grag (P Nicholip/10st5lb) 4-1	41	41
lov (G Richards/9s(7lb) 7-1	8-1	8-1
Fairway (D Nicholson/10st) 9-5	8-1	8-1
Same Assay (P Hobbs/9st13b) 9-1	8-1	8-1
(C Brooks/10x10k) 10-1	10-1	10-1
es (Miss I) Kristo(Bst13b) 12-1	12-1	10-1
untrymag (K.Bailey/SetSib) 8-1,	8-1	8-1
	10.1	10.1

FOLKESTONE

HYPERION 2.30 Rough Quest 100 BALLY CLOVER (nap) 3.00 Wille Makelt 1.30 El Freddie

3.30 Saras Delight 2.00 Conquering Leader GOING: Thises - Good (Good to Soft in places); Hurdles - Good to Soft.

| Right-hand, undulating course with a run-in of one furlong.
| Charrie is fin W of town off A.M. Westenhanger station (service from Loudon, Charring Cross) inflores course, ADMINSMON: Charles 12 (under-16s free); Tattersalls 58.50; Pierne Park 5 I per car, plus 5 4 for each occupant. CAR PARE: Free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: H Cecil—6 winners from 37 runners gives a survey ratio of 21.0% and a profit to a \$1 level state of \$4.08; M Stoote — 8 winners, 28 runners, 21.1%, -\$10.12; J Danlop — R winners, 40 runners, 20.1%, +\$0.25; R Hanson — 6 winners, 43 runners, 16.0%, +\$4.45.

M LEADING JOCKETS: R Dunwoody — 10 winners, 56 rides, 17.9%, +\$21.21; A Magnire — 10 winners, 8) rides, [6.4%, +\$28.46; N Williamson — 7 winners, 35 rides, 23% -\$28.14; J Ockorne — 7 winners, 40 rides, 17.5%, -\$18.70. VISORED FIRST TIME: Credon (1,90).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None,
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Summer Haven (1,30), Dingle Wood (2,30) & Spirit Of
Success (3,30) have been sont 250 miles by N Lampard from Kingsbridge, Devon.

12.30 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £2,259

WAYFARERS WAT, only moderate on his distant fourth off a rating of 88 behind Ragamu, first Romeo at Stratford at the end of October, turned over a new leaf at Warcanton three weeks later and followed up 11 days ago at Hereford, where it was not so much what be beat tother how he old it, Wayfares Way is at lest confirming the promise shown in his final troutings last season and, with there lead only a little cut in the ground, the ground may suit him more than the other three. He is also leady to have more improvement than them Fontamays dut not have time to find his feet before lest season was over for him and he was having his test run since finishing third in a Humbington cleamer when staying on into second behind the easy winner Surrey Dancer in the same roce lest Tuesday. He will FORM GUIDE come on for that encouraging return and has a good chance of going one better but his naming record suggests he needs softer ground than this. August The Two would not have been soft enough for here when only fourth behind Lets Be Florik over two and a half miles there next time. It was not the extra distance that bent here and he is one taken a mind once he gets on esser surface. Zingflow has been on the wrong end of, perhaps, one too many tight limshes this season and his form has gone off a bit in his less.

1.00 HEATHFIELD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 3m 2f Penalty Value £3,590

TYPE VICAR OF BRAY (192) (CD) IP C Dutton! L Wess 9 10 9. CANADA SOMES COURTIER ON & O. J. Super & S. M. O. Chart 9 Meter 7 10 0 10 1173 HONER MCK (5) R Deant R Dean 11 10 0

FORM GUIDE

FORM QUIDE.

This model by hydrogen BALLY CLOVER and Discool Fort, with the younger horse's fitmer law-g, the reling to the Bally Course looked to have Childrey Chocotate's measure when
is a discover item of the laboring Softblern (12% better in) at the second loss Fortbell
Am of 12 high law's month. There was cut in the ground then and he profess it softer than
A totals, into at level is all not be as last as when he was only fourth behand Dubellow
I star new Institute's light Brise mass last time out. He did not not too body in the coincidence we will not higher with the bigger test of stational. Demand Fort needed his not
instituted the was the laborate with one of a ground of 10th on good ground over this top at Warnest

Let I grow also also also also departed on soft ground at Newton Abbot - and he could far key - he was a win a groot warrer on soft ground at Newton Abbot - and he could - e⁻ⁿ_i all to wear stoam on the closing stages it allowed too much of his own way. Gredon e^{-a-1} fel for his of it if able to reproduce what was a printinging first effort of the season

1.30 SELLINDGE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 added 2m 6f 110yds Perusty Value £2,157 SWIZELY DESPOSED (MAI) Alaria Maria A Henderica: 6 12 0 TC Mai DESAM LEADOR (20) Alaria Alaria Maria (6 11 13 J ANDE SOIT A (78) (70) Alaria Parriaria (6 MCQUIT 5 11 11 D Bridge TE PREDOE (24) Nistra Locati (10) 6 11 J ENAME (15) (7) (0) Van Alaria (10) 6 11 1 1 1 1 2 M EQUATYS DAMERIC (7) (0) Van Alaria (1) Variansa (1) 10 0 CL MRE SPREAD (21) Wherein B Jones M Pipe 6 20 6 MIGHT SAPPHINE (20) IP Roderros D Burchet 10 20 6 ...

EL PREDIONE mure have a good chance of breaking his duck against mainly plating class stores. It is notice was usually true by the stiff climb who the straight as much as the decent congres of fower-line true price. He had been close before that and rath particularly well as extra falls. Gooden on high land at Chettenham in April. The Wildour winner, December Louis is the province part of the mining unit weakining from the hind flight behind a promise or the mining straight which had been provinced to the province part of the mining straight weakining from the hind flight behind a promise or the mining straight weakining from the hind flight behind a promise or the mining straight which the first was not a bad effort under his penal-They give a ratiod right up to his brist over a distance be has get to by. Albeid Select Online a distance be has get to by. Albeid Select Online add to hundring often new ordinarisme differents over fences and rain night up to his best of rid less sension to too up in a reside over two furtings less at Chepsine 10 days ago, to the best, which directly and open the found thousines stating to finally, it is hard to time what to

make of the form, but what is for sure is that be is off a 9th higher mark in stronger company and on ground less demanding. Its Grand is elso reverting to hurding. He needed softer ground than this when whrung sellers at Bengir and Tournton lest sesson and Risers Spread could be the denger with his light weight. He has hung badly right at Newton Abbot and Cheftenham and also run out at Worcester (all left-hand courses) and should be better off geng chockwise, although he found disappointingly little when chesting home RIMING Time at night-handed Exeter in September.

Selection: EL PREDDIC

2.00 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £4,175

BETTIMS: 11-30 Conquering Leader, 5-1. Sir Leonard, 7-1 Glous A Call, 8-1 Moinit, 10-1 Sheriff mair, Shertmore Guic, Jovial Man, 20-1 others 1995: No Pan No Garn 7 11 0 P Hoe 6-5 U Giford) 12 ren

_	ئىب	zaojus i diparij remo pajoco .
L		CAPTAIN JACK (28) (Cive O Smith) M Pipe 8 10 12 R Hoghes B
•	1	DANZANTE (45) (Doud Hallures) R Stronge 4 10 12
1	224254	DESTIN D'ESTRUMAL (FRO (263) (Danen C Mercel) O Nicholson 5 10 12
ı	0522-0	DINGLE WOOD (10) (Paul Gardner) N Lampard 6 10 12
i	50-6	FLAXLEY WOOD (21) (Mrs O A La Trobe) R Bushler 5 10 12
•	Q/	KENTISH MAN (637) (D N Yeadon) Mrs L Jewell 8 10 12D lamby
•	U	KYBO'S REVENCE (7) (I Kermen) R Rove 5 10 11
ļ	0	MASTER BOMBER (11) (D R Fest) R Ainer 5 10 12
,	0	MOQUITA (NZ) (17) (Mrs R E Stocky J McConnochie 9 10 12 R Kavennigh
Ω		OVER THE WATER (The Droop Pertners) R After 4 10 12 P Hentey (3)
11		PETT LAD (J S Homewood) J Homewood 6 10 12M Richards
12	23/121	ROUGH QUEST (262) (A T A Wates) T Casey 10 10 12 M A Fitzgerald
13	013-22	
4	00-0	SAFERLIDE (34) (PH Betts Clothings) (bit) J Grand 8 10 11
5	6-	SULLAMEL (404) (I G Hotier) R Hodges 5 10 11

FORM GUIDE

With Mertin Pipe recently recording his fishest 100 for the season and three more winners at Newton Abbot yesterday, the smart choice ought to be Captain Jack. This former useful Flat staying handicapper was racing for the first time since January 1995 when beaten three lengths by Klimargton over an earte furlong and a half at Wincanton lest month. The form as it stands is nothing special, but it was a big improvement on his first attempt and he needed the run, so he should be able to improve again. The bumper within ROYAL EVENT was touched off by Not For Turning at Kempton (2m) on his hurding debut and then out-paced by the Flat racer lonio from the kast at Wannick (2m). They were two good efforts and stepping up to today's distance could be the answer, especially seithe cut in the glothing as the many at this more than Captain Jack. Teny Casey has to get a race into the National winner, Rosigh Queet, after Haydock was abendoned on Saturday and he should have a good work-out without being able to match the pace of the other two. An eye will have to be lept on Deatin D'Estruvel, a winner over fences in France. In his letest start, he was fourth at Autout, six lengths behand or Royal, who is unbestern in two nurs over fences in this country for Martin Pipe.

3.00 SHADDORHURST CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,600 added 2m Penalty Value £2,711.

P26024 SHALIN (13) IS CODEN!) JENNIN 6 11 7 414-F41 DAWN CHANCE (29) (29) (6 Small) R Hodges 10 11 7 2063P-0 PERMANNE (USA) (20) (CD) (DAS A WOODOW) MIS A W BETTING: 5-2 Wille Malait. 11-4 David Chance. 3-1 Fichs. 7-1 Shalls. R-1 Solal Dancer. 18-1 Code 1995: Le Char Nov 12 11 11 6 Femon 7-4 (D Gressel) 7 care

The extra three furiongs was the main reason why FICHU was unable to confirm earlier Windsor form with Sister Ricisa at Hereford 11 days ago. Fixtu is back at two miles today, the
distance at which he ran but an easy wither from Ferwick and Willie Makelli at Ludiow
last morth. The thard found two miles at Ludiow perhaps too sharp and has a 10th put, but
still may not reverse the form. Shadik sloped his field when caught by Develoy at Felsenham
and the result fathers him, as does Dawin Chenoa's Plumpton win, while Craise Control
section is the father than this at his best.

3.30 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £1,322 3-21 MONRES HELLIAD (SS) (D) (Nrs 6 Marchard R O'Sulvan 4 11 0... SPRINT OF SUCCESS (15) (Wastern Solvens Ltd? N Lamper(8 11 4.
ST MELLION LESSINE (26) (St Melton Estates Ltd? M Pipe 4 11 4.
YOUNG MANNY (\$1.0) (Mrs Gores Jesnos) A Jessop 5 11 4.
HERRICHE JANE (Miles Roborts) M Roberts 4 10 13.

- 17 declined BETTING: 11.4 Supramo Troglodyke, 4-1 Suras Deligis, 6-1 Brownes HR Lad, 8-1 Buido, St Hellion
Laloure, 18-1 Richey, 12-1 Full Of Remon, 20-1 others
1996: Chaptese 6 12. 11. D Brogneter 10-11 M Pipe: 10 ran

12.20 Smolensk 12.50 Heddon Haush 1.20 Tri-

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE,

CONQUERING LEADER was a leading novoe burdler in the 1994-95 season and was unbeaten until touched off by Morgana Herbour and Jack Button at Aintnee on her find outing, promes she more then confirmed in her only two outings lest term. Unfortunately, Conquering Leader inquired a linee when beating some smart stayers at Newbury on Hermessy day last year and has not been out since, but she is reported sufficiently straight and is not being thighly thed for her chasing debut. This could be the stepping-strone. Jovial Mass was very consistent in his grade over hurdles last season and went well for a long way against corresponds at Taurano in his list steampt over fances. The greater test of startins here will suit him more and he is a ready-made winner, though not of course against something of Conquering Leader's class. Melials is a decent hurdler who has won in each of the two fairly light seasons he has had over jumps. Making the transition to fences should not he a problem for him or the Strong Gale getting Sie Leanard, who has a well in his two taces with the useful Moncesman at Sandown and Newbury last writer.

Selections: CONQUERING LEADER

Selection: CONOVERING LEADER

2	201	LIMPHE NOVICE HUNDLE (CLASS E) ESJUVU BODGO ZITI 47
•	****	110yds Penalty Value £2,805
	0/2	CAPTAIN JACK (28) (Cive O Smith) M Pipe 6 10 12R Hoghes B
	1	DANZANTE (46) (Dovid Hallword) R Stronge 4 10 12
ĺ	224254	DESTIN D'ESTRUVAL (FR) (253) (Danen C Mercel) O Nicholson 5 10 12 D Bridgenber.
	0522-0	DINGLE WOOD (10) (Paul Gardner) N Lampard 6 10 12
	50-6	FLAXLEY WOOD (21) (Mrs O A La Trobe) R Buckler 5 10 12
	O/	KENTISH MAN (637) (D N Yeadon) Mrs L Jewell 8 10 12D Lasty
•	U	
,	0	MASTER BOMBER (11) (D R Fear) R Alner 5 10 12
	0	MOQUITA (NZ) (17) (Mrs R E Stocks) J McConnochie 9 10 12 R Kawaragh
Ω		OWER THE WATER (The Doop Pertyers) R Afret 4 10 12 P Harriey (3)
1		PETT LAD (J S Homewood) J Homewood 6 10 12M Richards
2	23/121	
3	013-22	ROYAL EVENT (17) (RF) (T J Wholey) O Gandolfo 5 10 12
4	Q0-0	SAFESLIDE (34) (PH Bens (Hokings) (bit) J Galord 8 10 11
5	6-	SULLAMELL (40-0) (I G Hooker) R Hodges 5 10 11
		_ 1E declared _

= 22 occurre =

BETTING: 3-1 Captala Jack, 7-2 Destin D'Estruval, 9-2 Rough Quest, 6-1 Royal Brent, 6-1 Deszonia,
18-1 Safegido, 20-1 others

1995: Heppy Hostage 4 11 0 A P McCoy 13-2 (J Wate) 14 ran

Mintrum reight: 10st. True hundrup weight: Coron Larly Str. 13th.

BETTIRE: 5-4 Triennium, 4-1 True to Treem, 8-1 Mine Mont, 8-1 Dark Mid-night, 10-1 Cation Ludy, 12-1 Grook Gold, Seconds Austy, 14-1 others ennium 1.50 Pagliaccio 2.20 Supertop 2.50 Judicial Field 3.20 Carliele Bandito's GOING: Firm (Good to Firm in places). M Right-hand oval course with tight turns.

Course is 5m 5 of Edinburgh on Al. 3ms link from Edinburgh station fon. ADMINSTRON; Cub & 1; Tattersulls 56 (OAPs and comployed \$3), Accompanied under 18s free. CAR PARIS; Free. 1.50 MUSSELBURGH LINKS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 4f F22-242 PAGELAGORO (5) (C) (667) M Hermond 8 11.3 R Garality 21325-4 MONTRAVE CRU D Lawrence Annual R Garality

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None LONG-DESTANCE RONNERS: Paritim, (1.50), Judicial Field (2.50) & Sloux Warrior (3.20) have been sent 190 miles by N Tinlder Iron Langton, North Torkshire. 12.20 TABLE MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f

DOVEST THISELY M Hammond 4 11 5-MEAAL (USA) (16) R Allen 5 11 5-

HYPERION

— 6 déclared — BETERG: 4-5 lovest Wisely, 6-4 Sucleaux, 10-1 Mizzel, 25-1 Royal Pain, Super Gry, 68-1 Celtic Comma

12.50 BATHING COACH NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m

l Firgoridi, Mies Lamplight, 8-1 Meter Convel, 14-1 others 1.20 SEA HOLE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,800 added 2m

P-OPOS BARBE (8) B Mactersont 6 10 10 ..

BETTRIC: 6-4 Finals Of Beelin, 7-4 Judicial Field, 9-2 Cordendes, 5-1 Repli 3.20 SHORT HOLE STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT 20-1. CARLISLE BANDITO'S (8) (CD) J Berry 4 11, 21 - M Molomey

BETTING: 11-10 Carlisie Bandito's, 9-4 Sloux Warrior, 3-1 Notty Solora,

5045PP SCHOOL OF SCHOOL (215) O Notes 6 10 6 ___ MeDowald HYPERION 12.40 Minelia Derby 1.10 Easy Breezy (nb) 1.40

Beechfield Flyer 2.10 Record Lover 2.40 Hawaition adjoins course. ADMISSION: Cub \$12; Tatternsis \$6 (OAP members of course's Diamoud Club \$4, accompanied under-16s free). CAR PARK: Free.

BLINEERED FEEST TIME: None. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: None. LONG-DESTANCE EUNNERS: Tabrales (3.10) & Ecites (12.40) have been sem 211 miles by M C Pipe from Nicholashayne, Devon.

12.40 CARDIFF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m 4f 110vds

215003 RED YES, (13) M Poe 4 10 11 ______ D Welsh (2)
0-P TROUNES HOPE (27) E Caire 7 10 11 ______ M Shelib
004 WEATHER WISE (29) W G M Turner 4 10 11 _____ A Thornton
44650-4 CARLY-J (13) F Aight of 5 10 7 _____ A West 11 44650-4 CAPEY-J (12) F Jackson 5 10 7 ______ A the M Rest
12 P PRINKTINE PERRY (21) Mrs D Haire 5 10 7 _____ A thegate
13 646-443 REVERBANK ROSE (25) W Cay 5 10 7 _____ T Boy BETTING: evens Minella Derly, 7-4. Ref Del July 18-18. Research State of Throughout Name, 12-1. Cost Of Throughout, Carly-1, Weather Wiss. 18-1

1.10 HULL MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 added 2m 1 P2232-P SATHWICK BODGE (11) O Williams 6 11.5 _____ \$ Michiell PP-P CARACOL (15) / Novine 7 11.5 _____ D Gallagher 3 304-6 ENRY WESTEY (15) C Karon 8 11.5 _____ P Hostoy 4 56256-F PALL SHELMS (USA) (7) O Williams 7 11.5 _____ P Hostoy 5 00-8074 ITE FENCE SHEWERE (8) 0 Michiell 11.5 _____ P Hostoy 6 12.5 _____ S. Paus (5) _____ P Hostoy OF THOUGHT UP Channing 5 11.5 _____ Kr C. Vigns (3) _____ 7 declared -____ T declared -_____ P Hostoy Ready, 8-1. The Fence Shelder, Marapha, 16-1 Caracol, 20-1 Whod Of Thought it

1.40 GRIMSBY SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,450 added 3m 110yds 1 P43-631 MR PLUTTS (21) | Tuck 10 11 11

45045-2 SEECHTELD FLYER (6) W Clay 5 10 12 QP35/P CHARLYIC (6) W Curnington 6 10 12 233/24-P FAST REM (21) J Multis 8 10 12 502246 HANGIFFON LAD (CC) J Parkes 7 10 P82 LAMESRA BRIGEZE (19) T J Naugho 20-53P LE BARON (10) C Egypon 5 10 12-520. LOVELY RASCAL (7) J O'Neil 4 10 7.

- 14 doctored
146 - 52 Nr Heatte, 9-2 Mail House, 7-1 Le Barro

Seld Figur, Lovely Reseal, 12-1 of BRISTOL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE 2.10 (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 110yds 650F-P2 JNC DEL PRINCE (20) P Nichola 6 10 0.

Minimum weight: 10st. True bene BETTING: 7-4 Wisco Wonder, 11-4 Insuletys, 6-1 Record Lover, Jac Del Prince, 7-1 Maybe O'Grady, 12-1 Duelle, 16-1 Sweet Buck

2.40 RGR REFRIGERATION HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £7,000 added 2m 4f 110yds P21JU44 HERMERT BUCHAMM (19) P Nichols 6 11 10. A P BioDay 5443-P4 COMBANDER (85) (D) J Smyth-Osbourne 12 11 8.W Minusten U44/16-2 HARMARN YOURN (24) (RF) G McDaut 6 11 8... A Mingden F1221-1 METHERBY SMD (13) (U3) Minus M Mingen 6 11 6.A S Smith 144/10F CEXTROD (13) (D) FT Smith 8 11 8... S Wymne 21JP-0 THE FLYING FOOTBAMI (20) R Dicker 10 11 6.... D Gallingham - 6 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Notherby Sald, 11-4 Collino, 7-2 Hamalton Youth, 5-1 Her-bert Buchaman, 10-1 Corronder, The Phylog Footman

3.10 LIVERPOOL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m

Minimum weight: 10st. Your handlesp weights: Stiffing Moon Set 12th, Word-SWIRT Set 75. BETTAND: 4-5 Yeahrates, 4-1 SWIRING Moon, 5-1 Mr Morierty, 7-1 Wind-ward Actom, 8-1 Imposent Georgis, 16-1 Wordswith

A Property THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 ± FOLKESTONE MUSSELBURGH 0891 26 + 971)

12.30: 1 NAME OF OUR FATHER (D

3. Sheeth Kefash 1-1, 21 ran, 2-1 il 15. Alb. No. 1010.000, 2, 4, 1P Bowers, Husterford Washingtone £106.801.£17.10. 11 40. 17.30. DF. £64.60. CSF. £113.15. The not won, NR, Worth The 1.00: 1. SEVERN GALE (X Acquire) 5-

2: 2. Pridewood Picker 10-11 to: 3. Isa-uh 10 1. 4 ran. 8: 1% (J.Alien, Alcester). Tota: 13 10 PF 11 70, CSF: £4 99, NR: 1.30: 1 GYSART IN Webamson 8-15 10: 2. Irish Perry 50-1 4 ran. Dist. Rd Port Kellington: Total: £1.40. DF: £5.90. earlight 3-1; 2. Lord McMurrough 3-1; 3. Domespel 13-8 fat: 4 ran. 2, 6, (P Vur-phy, Bristott, Totar £4.00. DF: £5.80. CSF:

2.30: 1, REX TO THE RESCUE (Mr R Thornton: 4-1; 2. Mr President 11-8 fai; 3. Crafty Chaptain 10-1. 7 ran. 5, 1 (R Ainer, Blanctord Forum). Rote: £4.70; £2,30, £1,40, DF: £5,90, CSF: £9,80, 3.00: 1. KONVEKTA QUEEN (J Osborne) 11-4 ; (a.; 2. Joy For Life 25-1; 3. Maylin Magic 7-2. 10 ran, 11-4 c fav Dr's Las: (5th), 10, 6, (0 Sherwood, Upper Lambourn). Tote: £4.30; £1.50, £4.70, £1.50, DF. £53.50, CSF: £57.76, Tro: 288.20. 11: ETS SE FRANK (R Johnson)
6:5 fax: 2. The Captain's Wist: 5:2; 3. Lockethei. Total: £2.70; £1.10, £1.20.

Always Greener 12-1, 13 ran. 1, % (Noel Y Chance, Lambourn). Total: \$2,30; T Chance, Lambourni, Total: £2,30; £1,10, £1,90, £2,70, DF: £3,80, CSF: £5.10. Tricast: £22.75. Tho: £19.90. NR: ce 6: £172.66. Place 5: £52.50.

NEWCASTLE 12.40: 1. SON OF ANSHAN (J Supple) 6-4 fay: 2. Rossell 5-1; 2. Incisoo Park 9-4, 17 ran. 1., 7. (Mrs.A. Sumbania, Roch-mond) Totac £2.60; £1.10, £1.90, £2.10. DF. £4.70. CSF. £12.63. Tha; £2.60. 1.10: 1 STORMY CORAL (B Storey)

RACING RESULTS

DF: £3.00. CSF: £5.24. NR: Fiveleigh Buids. 1.40: 1. WHITE WILLOW (P Niver) 10-Late 1. Write Walliam (Pricer) 10-11 fay; 2. Alde Mecnoire 25-1; 2. Auburn Boy 7-1. 12 ran. 3/c, 1/s, (Ars M Rev-eley, Saltburn). Total: £2.60; £1.40, £2.90, £1.60, Df. £14.00, CSF. £25.12.

2.10: 1. CROSSHOT (K Jones) 9-2; 2-Cover Point 7-2; 3. Singing Sand 4-1. 7 ran. 2-1 fev Show Your Hand (fell). 7. 5. (R McDonald, Duns). Tota: £5.10; £2.90, £1.80. DP: £13.40. CSP, £19.89. Treast: £62.02. Trio: £17.50, NR: Moss Pageant, Uk Hygiene. No 2 LIK Hygiene was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 does not apply, no maries formed, 2.45: 1 GARBO'S BOY (W Fty) 14-1;

U Turner, York). Tota: £15.30; £2.40, £2.67. £1.40, £10.30. DF: £116.20. CSP: 1.20 £223.68. 3.15: 1. LIVIO (A Dobbin) 5-1: 2.

Brancher 5-1: 3. Purevalue 9-4 fav. 8 ran. 7, 4. (P Montasth, Rosevell). Total £7.40; £1.60, £1.10, £1.80. DF. £20.20. CSF: £29.97, Tricast: £67.04, Trig: £26.50, MR: Latin Leader. Jackpot: Not won (pool of £2,989.67 carned forward to Folkestone today).
Placepot: £1,351.40. Quadpot: £544.00. Place 6: £187.50. Place 5: £153.24,

NEWTON ABBOT 12.50: 1. PALOSANTO (A P McCoy) 654.04.
55.2. 9thr Performer 10-11 fac 3. StrikeA-Pose 12-1. 5 ran. 24. 3. (M Pipe). Tota:
100-30; 2. Lake Kariba Evens fav; 3.
Place 6: £27.33. Place 5: £26.12.

L 8 ran. 4-7 fev Celtic Gient (felf), 5; hd. £2.50; £2.30, £1.00, DP: £1.10, CSP: Reffles Rooster 12-1, 9 ran, Dist, 30, U Turner, York). Tota: £4.00; £1.50, £1.10, 1.20: 1, MISS DISKIN (B Powell) 2-1 Say: 2. Country Store 14-1: 3. Pe

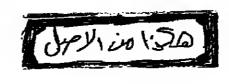
Choice 12-1. 12 ran. 27, 17, [R Buckler]. Tota: £2,90; £1.20, £2.40, £1.70. DP: £9.80. CSF: £28.00. Tric: £47.40. 1.50: 1. FRIENDLY HOUSE (A P McCoyl 7-4 fax; 2. Multisshim 9-2; 3. Daily Sport Girl 9-2, 7 ran. 2½, 24. (M Pipe). Total £2.30; £1.30, £2.90. DF: £7.50. CSF: £9.40. 2.20: 1. JAMES THE FIRST (A P Mc-Coy) 6-5 fax; 2. And El And 9-4; 3, Star

of Italy 18-1. 4 ran. 22, dist. IP Nicholis). Total: £1.80. DP: £2.00. CSP.

£2.20. DF: £3.20. CSF: £6.69. Tho: £15.20. 8.20: 1. TITAN EMPRESS (N Mann)

14-1; 2. Country Keeper 20-1; 3. Jak-brooker 9-2. 8 ran. 5-2 fav Bramblehill Buck, 2, 12. (S Mellor). Tota: £12.60; £2.60, £3.60, £1.20. DP: £76.60. CSP. £192.31 Treast £1.325.87. 3.50: 1. TOP JANALIN (Mr G Shenker 13-2; 2. Hig Strand 9-4 far; 3. Turan Bab 10-1. 14 ran. Ys. 19. (N Hawke). Total: £7.70; £2.20, £2.90, £3.50. DF. £14.30. CSF: £22.42. Yricast: £1,46.43. Trio:

Placepot: £52,70. Quadoct: £56.60.



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Jordan wary of Mansell's demands

Motor racing

DERICK ALLSOP

Nigel Mansell must accept a performance-related deal if he makes a Formula One comeback with Jordan-Peugeot next sea-son. The 43-year-old is expected to tell Jordan in the next 24 hours whether or not he wishes to return, but a positive verdict could be only the start of complex contractual negotiations.

Mansell is understood to be seeking about £5m, a price which may have been determined by the figures quoted when Jordan were attempting to sign the 1996 champion, Da-

However, Jordan regard the Mansell of today as a lesser known quantity than Hill and cannot have gathered conclusive evidence from last week's test in Barcelona. Mindful of Mansell's ill-fated venture with McLaren, they are wary of making an unconditional commitment of £5m.

Eddie Jordan, the team owner, has constantly maintained he would never run the risk of bankrupting his organisation. The public humiliation would also be too much to bear.

Jordan has lined up financial support from Bernie Ecclestone, Formula One's impresario, but it appears that ITV, new television guardians of the sport in this country, are unwilling to throw a little extra into

the Mansell "pot". It is likely Ecclestone will insist on a pay-for-points scheme, which Benetton and Nelson Piquet once employed to their mutual satisfaction. That would effectively throw the ball back finito Mansell's court and provide

the first test of his resolve. Ecclestone contends that if Mansell decided to race, there would be no repeat of his McLaren fiasco. "I think if Nigel feels he can do the job then he should," Ecclestone said. "I don't think he would make another comeback unless tion of his compatriot's asking he was certain about it. He price.

doesn't want to go through what he went through over the McLaren drive."

That comeback ended in ignominy - ironically at the Span-ish Grand Prix circuit - 19 months ago, when Mansell abandoned his car, claiming it was undrivable.

"I don't think he should have stopped in the first place," Ecclestone said. "He's now lost nearly two years and I haven't a clue what he might do. He's the only one who can know.
"It's not a case of Formula

One needing him back because Formula One is bigger than any driver. People said Formula One would be finished when we lost Senna, then when Prost and Mansell retired. But it wasn't.

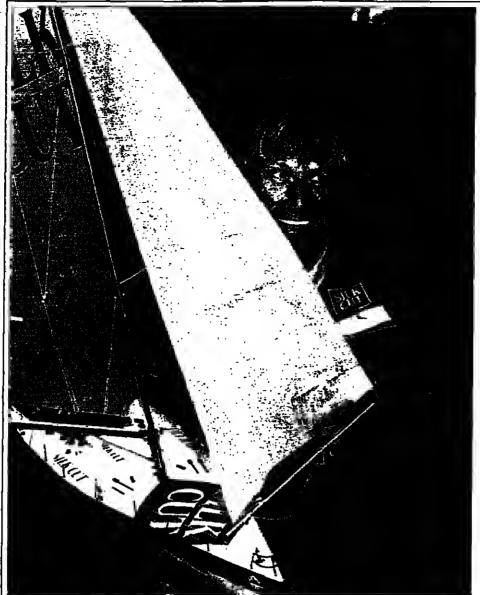
The people who will benefit if Nigel comes back and does the job are Jordan and Ralf Schumacher, I gather there should be a decision very soon and I'm sure it will be the right

Mansell is anxious to erase the memory of his capitulation at McLaren, a blot on a career otherwise illuminated by spectacular success and drama. He is adamant he still has the ability, fitness and desire to do the

Driver and team express themselves content with the times Mansell achieved in testing, his best falling just threetenths of a second outside the fastest by Jordan's other driver, Ralf Schumacher, younger brother of Michael.

But then, as one insider said: "That may tell you more about Ralf Schumacher than it does about Mansell." It is also suggested that Peugeot are less than enthusiastic about these developments involving Mansell.

Still waiting in the wings in the hope of reclaiming his drive with Jordan is Martin Brundle. He has maintained a dignified silence during the hullabaloo surrounding Mansell's projected comeback and would be prepared to re-sign for a frac-



Lawrie Smith will lead Britain's challenge in the Whitbread next year Photograph: Allsport

Smith 'transfer' costs \$1m

STUART ALEXANDER

Sailing's first transfer deal worth in excess of \$1m (\$620,000) yesterday saw Lawrie Smith confirmed as skipper of a multi-million pound British challenge for the Whitbread Race next

The Swedish syndicate which released him, EF, immediately upped the stakes in the 32,000-mile round the world race by appointing Paul Cayard, the San Francisco America's Cup skipper, in his place.

Smith will stay with EF until mid-April, working mainly on sail design at the winter training camp in Portugal while his Silk Cut-sponsored boat, designed by Bruce Parr, is being built at the McConaghy yard in Sydney alongside one being constructed for the all-woman crew of the Australian model File Macpherson

EF lose not only Smith but a whole raft of crew members recruited by him. Neal McDonald, Gordon Maguire, Adrian Stead, Steve Hayles, Jason Carrington and sail co-ordinator Russell Pickthall all move over.

Cayard is expected to bring with him five top Americans with John Kostecki, Rod Davis, and long-time associate Stevie Erikson high on the list of probables. EF is building two new boats in Gothenberg, the second for its all-woman crew.

second for its all-woman crew. 1995, and has participated in two
No sooner had Smith earlier America's Cups.

switched to British colours than he was admitting that Cayard's appointment - both were anmeed at St Katherine's Dock London - immediately pro-pelled his old syndicate, rather than Chris Dickson and Dennis Conner, into his biggest threat.

Smith, for some time Britain's highest paid yachtsman, and his agents, World Sports Management, have taken three months to hammer out an agreement unique in yachting Both sides say it is amicable. He buys himself out of his EF contract and pays for participation in their design and development programme.
On the other side he will have presented a financial package to Gallaher, owners of Silk Cut, to over all his costs.

Not everyone is favourably im-pressed with Smith's defection. Magnus Olsson, the EF operations manager, said he had been "pretty upset." The 64ft Silk Cut yacht will be flown to England in May, with the syndicate hoping to share some of the £250,000 cost. The keel will be made in the United Kingdom.

Cayard reinforces the stature of the race. He is a perfect fit for EF's language-learning market-ing in the United States and 31 other countries - he also speaks French and Italian - and even has a Swedish wife. He was skipper of Italy's Il Moro di Venezia challenge for the America's Cup in 1992, helmsman and strategist for Dennis Conner's defence in

Mystery over Ashton's absence

Rugby Union

Bath yesterday moved quickly to quash speculation that their coach, Brian Ashton, could be about to leave the Recreation Ground. Ashton has been the club's inspiration, hut will apparently play no part in the holders build-up to their Pilkington Cup fifth-round tie against London Irish on Saturday.

A statement released by Ashton and senior club officials, read: "Bath Rugby Club and Brian Ashton wish to confirm that Mr Ashton is on holiday, and remains an employee of Bath Rugby Club."

The England flanker Andy

Robinson has been drafted in to

help prepare the side for Saturday's game as Bath begin their defence of a trophy they have won three years running. Bath players are staying silent, hut the first they heard of Ashton's week off was when they reported for training yesterday. Out of Europe and beaten three times in the league this season, Bath have enjoyed un-

precedented success since 1984, vinning 10 Twickenham cup finals and six First Division titles. Ashton was Jack Rowell's right-hand man during most of hat period, and took on the top job when Rowell succeeded Geoff Cooke as England manager in April, 1994. It was upgraded to a salaried position from 1 July, which persuaded Ashton that he should relin-quish his role as a housemaster at King's School in Bruton.

Somerset. Ashton, however, has seemed a somewhat peripheral figure this season while Bath's rugby director, the former England flanker and club captain John Hall, took centre stage. If Ashton does quit, it will leave Bath facing an unsettling period when they face crucial league matches against fellow championship challengers Sale, Saracens, Harlequins and Northampton. Blackheath yesterday ap

pointed former All Black forward Hika Reid as their full-time director of coaching.

ALAN WATKINS WILL. APPEAR TOMORROW

British coach is bullish

Ice hockey

STEVE PINDER

With the Superleague largely suspended at the weekend for tomorrow night's Olympic qualifier against Switzerland at Sheffield, Peter Woods, the British coach, was bullish about the aims for his squad. To beat Switzerland and therefore progress into the final qualifying tournament in Febmary; to be one of the five teams to go forward from this tournament to the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Britain's first Olympic appearance for 30 years and to play out of the Pool B World Championships into

Pool A at April's tournament.

Britain currently head the five-team league with a one-point lead over Switzerland but the Swiss have a game in hand. If they beat Britain and Denmark, they go through. If Britain beat them, all will rest on the Switzerland v Denmark game which is being played on

Newcastle Cobras' trip to Ayr Scottish Eagles was the only Superleague game hist week-end, with Newcastle winning the match in the first and third periods, the first 3-1 and the third 4-0 with only two lone goals, from Angelo Catenaro and Scott Young for Ayr in the second, making the 7-3 defeat respectable:

players deal.
There was a lot of interest

a Halifax spokesman, Chris Murgatroyd. Pearson, aged 25, has agreed

a three-year deal and Halifax will play a pre-season friendly at Post Office Road as part of the terms of the transfer. He becomes Halifax' third major signing of the close season. They have also gained the winger, Greg Clarke, from South Sydney, and the utility back, Daio Powell, in an exchange deal with

the former Parramatta back, John Brewer, who spent the latter stages of last season on trial

Another Halifax transfer is also likely to be delayed. Plans to move in with Halifax Town at The Shay will not be put into effect until further work is done on the ground. Until then, Halifax are likely to continue to play their home games at Thrum

pany with their player-coach,

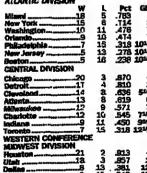
American football

NFL: Atlanta 27 St Louis 34; Carolina 27 Beltimore 16; Dalta 12 New England B; Deroit 3 Green Bay 31; Minnesott 21 Tumpa Bay 10; NY Clores 3 New Orleans 17; Pittsburgh 15 Sen Francisco 25. Basketball

BUDWESER LEAGUE Newcaste 79 Derby 90: Landon Towers 63 Sheffletd Sharks 62. 71P TROPHY Southern pook Birmingtom 108

Landon Towers 63 Shefflet Sharks 62,
TUP TROPPHY southern pook Birminghem 109
Hernel & Watford 91.
TUP TROPPHY Quester-flast draw: Thomes Velkry Tigges Cresser Jeds Lebester Roles v Barninghein Bullets; Leopards v London Towers:
Worthing Bears v Shettled Sharks (No-legged desto be played on or around 15 and 22 January).
NRA: Mean 89 Toward 88; Allowa 106 Prisodiphis 81: New York 89 Denies 25; Cleveland 301,
Mancepita 93; Checage 87 Chefridas 82; San Artonal 206 Balles 105; Minusules 107, New Jersey 91; Usah 101, Orlando 88; Sestile 100
Houston 105; LA Chopers 106 Sacramento 94;
Detroit 99 Bosson 89; Washington 110 Golden
Stare 102; Phaeme 103 Vancouver 84; Housum 99, Portland 89.
EASTERNI CONFERENCE
ATLANTIC DRYSSION

L PC 68



.913 -.857 2 .381 12 .348 13 .208 162 .190 16 .167 172

opponent, Oliver McCall, was arrested by Nashville police yesterday. The for-mer WBC champion was placed in cus-tody for allegedly throwing a Christmas tree in a hotel lobby and for spitting on s police car. He then threw a glass sno an ashtray in a hotel bar. McCall Is scheduled to fight Lewis early next year. John "The Beast" Mugabl made a win-ning comeback yesterday after a five-year absence. The former WBC Junior-middieweight champion gave away weight and youth but scored a 10-round ma-jority points decision over Australian cruiserweight champion Peter Kinsella.

SOUTH AFRICA SUPERSPORT SERECS (Final day of four): Kimberley: Free State 463, Grigusland Mess 440 and 222-6 M Galley Fron. Merch drawn. Johnsmachung: Transvend 334 and 272-35. C. Roston Province 251, and 185 fl. Kom. 75; C. Roston 4-74). Transvend van by 180 nass.

Engrave to a MINISTONIA LAND ROVER FOR WORLD TRINEC-DAY EVENT RANGOMES (Real strandings for 1996): 1.6 TeX (V.2) 457 pts; 2 M Todd (N.2) 395; 3 A Nicholon (V.2) 388, Best Britons: 5 | Stark 320; 8 P Furnell 234.

Football

nurse and punching another last year. Anderleicht striker De Bilde, who won the 1994 award for best Belgan league play-er, attacked the nurses when he was denied access to 8 hospital rount where his father was being treated for a heart attack in August 1995. He also kicked the ambulance on its arrival at his fa-ther's home because he thought it took

SPORTING DIGEST

The European Seniors Your next season will comprise a minimum of 15 tour-Name Contenting a manufacture of the Contenting SONY RANKONGS: 1 G Norman (Aus) 10.78pus ec. 27 Lehman (US) 9.74; 3 C Mongapowire (Scol 9.10; 4 E Pic (SA) 8.60; 5 F Couples (US) 8.16; 6 N Raido (Eng) 7.98; 7 P Mickelson (US) T.77, 8 M Ozeki (Us) T.58, 9 D Love III (US) T.53; 10 M O'Meera (US) T.12.

Equestrianism

A Beigian court ruled yesterday that in-ternational Gilles de Bilde must stand trial for assault after headbutting a male nied access to a hospital room where his father was being treated for a heart

ther's home because he thought it took too long to get there.

FA CARISBERIA WASE Fourth round: Hindday Arnets or Standard AFC v North Ferthy United: Guisborough Toen v You Lew Toen: Neastly v Cognithou United: Bedington Terriers v Dunston Federation: Brewey Testey Western Durham Copt Hubmell Toen or Neastles Town v Spating United or Bridgington Try, Whitely Toen v Nembech Coard Bedington Saffron Wasten Toen v Nembech Coard Bedington Saffron Wasten Toen v Nembech Coard Wistooth Town; Margistafeld United v Tauruton Town; Tratchiam Town v Thereton Town; Cornord Renges or Greenwich Borough v Wistooth Town. Serreton Town; Serreton Park V New York of Paramotod or Braattine Try, Histon v Northroot: Reading Town v Bargeaud Artest; Wastens to be played in Jones of the Saffron Wasten Vertical Valenches to be played.

ice Hockey

tie Colons 7.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Guidfod 1. Swindon 4;
Medway 8 Kingston 2; Slough 8 Telford 4; Solhull Blaza 25 Peartoorough Prates 2; Durnines
2 Buckburn 42; Persity 12 Cattiseagg 0; Whiley 2 Fise 4. Sunday; Fise 6 Durnines 1; Murrayfield 2 Blackburn 7; Whitely 1 Palsity 9;
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE; Florida 6 Edmortoon 3; Dalles 4 Ditaws 0; Chicago 2 Pittsturgh 1; Whotouser 6 St. Louis 0; Derrot 2 Torono
1; Philiodolphia 6 Bosson 0.

Rugby Union

Rugiby Union
Cardiff and Wales centre Leigh Davies could be fined up to £2,000 by the Welsh Rugby Union for breaching their contract with their kit and boot sponsors Reebok. Davies, on the bench for Sunday's Test against South Africa, appeared on a recent television interview wearing 5 thai kit-maker's product. SMALEC CUP Stuth roused draws. Brymney or Ammanthod v Trancrity: Llamboury v Pyle. Pontypool v Pencoed; South Wales Poles v Blackwood or Hinvaurt. Newcastle Enlyin or Resolven v Gallech Goot; Vinas Power V Princymmer, Pengally of Carmarchen Quars. Swenges v Durnent, Newport v Cardiff, Walland or Buith Wels v Abscan or Vascradigmans; Coos Keys v Walla Car Abscan or Vascradigmans; Coos Keys v Walla Car Abscan or Vascradigmans; Coos Keys v Walla or Abscans or Vascradigmans; Coos Keys v Walla or Abscans or Vascradigmans; Coos Keys v Walla or Abscans or Vascradigmans; Coos Keys v Walla or Abscanson or Vascradigmans; Coos Keys v Walla or Abscanson.

Christophe Auguin claimed a world record yesterday for covering 374 miles in 24 hours as he led the Vendee Globe single-handed non-stop round the world race. British is Pete Goss, who is the most southerly of the 12 yearns still in the race, was becalmed. That allowed Skiing

AlPine: WORLD CUP Mea's Super-6 (Val d'Isère, Fr. 2.120s., vertical drop 620m): 1 H Kresse Ruil Jimi, 32.26sex; 2 Coentre Mea-cr (Aut) 1.23.29; 3 5 Locher (Swit) 1.23.43; 4 P Orticle (Aut) 1.23.69; 5 C Meyer (Aut) 1.22.78. Ovenet: 1 Kresse 2970s; 2 K-A Armott, (Not) 234; 3 5 Locher (Swit) 215; 4 M von Gru-erigen (Swit) 201; 5 Mayer 185. Snooker

GERMAN OPEN (Oszubrűck) Finet: R D'Sult-van (Eng) bt A Robidoux (Can) 9-T. Sports awards

Steve Redgrave was yesterday named Sports Writers' Sportsman of the Year. Redgrave missed out on British sport's most prestigious individual award on Sunday when Damon Hill was named BBC Sports Personality of the Year. Sportsman of the Year: Steve Redgrav Sportswoman of the Year: Laura Deve Sports Team of the Year: Steve Redgrave or

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Rugby League

Rugby Union

(7.30) (of Luctonians).

PRIMETON CUP Fourth round; Lydneyv New-bury (7.15). HART GRANDRE FOUR COUNTIES CHAMPI-

TODAY'S

NUMBER

The number of Portuguess

championships that the 48-

rear-old Swede, Sven-Goran

Enksson, the new Blackburn

Rovers manager, won in two spells as the coach of Ben-

fica. Eriksson's playing caree

was spent with one Swedish

club, Degerfors.

Football FOOUNTERS
T.30 unless sound
FA CUP SECOND ROUND REPLAYS
Burnley v Weislall (7.45)
Peterborough v Emiled (7.45)
Sausthorpe v Wrencham (7.45)
Wyconde v Barnet (7.45)

Wyconde v Barnet (7.45) FRIST DIVISION Bendford v Recoding (7.45)

Lyndral Palmoe v Shorifield Utd (7.45)

ALTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD

SOUTHERN SECTION FRIST ROUND Brighton v Faltern (7.45)

SPALDING CHALLENGE CUP

QUARTER-FRAULS

Macclesfield v Bromagnov (7.45)

MISSILYS SCOTTEN I FABUE

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Pearson moves to Thrum Hall best stand-off in Britain," said np hope of having the New Zealand and Western Samoa Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Halifax have signed the Featherstone Rovers stand-off, Martin Pearson, in a £100,000 deal. Pearson, an expert goalkicker who holds Featherstone's record for points in a season, has joined Halifax despite keen in-terest from Sheffield Eagles, who believed they had secured his services in a cash-plus-

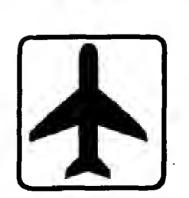
from other clubs, so we are de-lighted to have signed a player who, before he ran into injury problems, was just about the at Thrum Hall, but have given

Wakefield Trinity. They are also bringing back

second row Tony Tatupu in their ranks. Warrington, who have also overhauled their playing staff extensively, expect Tatupu will with them in the new

Bramley have parted com-Ray Ashton.

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Sport for Art's sake

A new book offers a fascinating history of sporting images, page 19

Jordan wary

Nigel Mansell's F1 return may depend on a novel pay formula, page 21

TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 1996 • THE INLAPEN

Eriksson will join Rovers next summer

Football

MARK BURTON

Sven Goran Eriksson has committed himself to taking charge at Blackhurn next summer, even if Rovers lose their Premiership place in May. Blackhurn's chairman,

Robert Coar, confirmed yesterday that Eriksson's three-year contract was "unconditional" and that he would be the next Rovers manager come what may. The Swede's commitment will avoid the possibility of the caretaker manager, Tony Parkes, presiding over the club's relegation and then finding himself in line for the caretak-

er manager's joh.
Parkes, admitting that be faces a "long hard season", added: "We are all relieved the managerial situation has been resolved, but there is a lnt nf work ahead between now and when the new man comes in.

"I have said all along that I didn't want the job on a permanent basis, but it now looks like I could be the longest serving caretaker in history!"

Eriksson has admitted be is "pleased and honoured" at being named Blackburn's manager. He will not he giving any interviews about the job, but he will be able to work with Parkes, as Rovers seek out new players. Coar said: "We can now look

to transfer matters and it is fair to assume that any deals will be done in consultation with the new manager, Players throughout the football world will now be able to see our long-term objectives and know who they will be playing for."

It is still possible that Eriks-

son's Italian club, Sampdoria, will agree to release him from his contract before the end of the

Military assistant with fun-

ny idea has to leave quick-

Fruit from Malibu glistens

find a slave Lord? (2,8)

convalent of 500 sheets

wine, cold, for priest (12)

15 A thing to protect one up-set Rio with stronger rea- 2

17 Bird flies back round a hut 3

t8 Place where destructive in

wet has tail out off (5)

19 Meet up in a state of anxi-

ety to produce a cake (9) 5

Memory holds, initially

12 Type of cake with one

vittage (5)

have to find a replacement for the 48-year-old Swede, who has an impressive pedigree having managed Gothenburg, Bentica twice, Roma and Fiorentina. He is in his fifth year at Sampdoria.

Eriksson, who is widely regarded a tactically astute coach, faces a dramatic change of lifestyle wheo he leaves the Mediterranean behind him and heads to the north-west of Eng-

---Eriksson in frame for Blackburn job



Eriksson (above) will move to Ewood Park next year, as revealed in the Independent

land. No details of his contract have been revealed, but it is believed he will become the highest paid manager in Blackburn's

Arsenal's David Platt, who played for two seasons under Eriksson at Sampdoria, said: "He has already proved himself to be a coach of the very highest calibre in Sweden, Italy and games.

men to be discoverers of

mountains? (12)
Account about farm land?

25 Unpredictable island has

26 Bring fellow away to do

engraving (4) 27 Tolerant for a letter? (10)

DOWN

A society girl getting up would no longer be so (4) Unhappy about hard run

Awfully idle jazz fan visits

German town's food shop

Move slowly to give credit to boring type (5) Satellite's to excel? Rub-

conservative debts (10)

Portugal and I am certain he will have a really positive impact at Blackburn. The Rovers players will enjoy his training methods and will respect his exceptiooal tactical awareness.

Vinnie Jones, the Wimbledon captain, has been fined a week's wages, estimated at £4,000, for a mickey-taking article about his team-mates. The Welsh in-ternational midfielder, who also donated his £2,000 fee from the newspaper to the players' pool, insists he bas learned his lesson. The Wimbledon chairman, Sam Hammam, who received a personal apology along with their manager, Joe Kinnear, and every individual player, believes Jones came very close to de-stroying his position as captain.

The consortium beaded by Anderson bidding to take control of Nottingham Forest says an offer to join forces with the rival group led by the Monte Carlo-based millionaire Lawrie Lewis has been rejected. Anderson thought linking up with Lewis would help "the long-term success and well being of the cluh" but said the offer met with a cool response. The Lewis consortium, which also coutains the former Tottenham cbairman Irving Scholar, is the favourite to take over.

The speed with which Avoo and Somerset Police submit reports on the crowd trouble at Ashton Gate will determine bow long Bristol City and Bristol Rovers have to wait to see what action they face from the Fnotball Association.

George Weah, Milan's Liberian striker who has just won Fifa's Fair Play Award, has had a one-match ban for headbutting Porto's Jorge Costa after a European Champions' League match, extended to six

Dogs Hamlet etc.? (5.5) A mute claim articulated is

Note receipts adapted for

lessly wealthy, with but one

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quare, Canary Whart, London I [4 5DL] and printed at Marce Colour Print, St

immovable (9)

the answer! (4)

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drugs offences. THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



FA gives Notley Payback time for Huckerby time to reform

Jay Notley has been given three mooths to rescue his career after the Foothall Association yesterday deferred sentence for his triple drugs

The 18-year-old Charltoo midfield player admitted taking cannabis, cocaine and Ecstasy at a party the weekend before

a mobile testing unit caught him

out at the club's training ground

oo 4 November, Last seasoo two more experienced players, Roger Stanis-laus and Craig Whitington, were banned for a year and six months respectively for serious

Yesterday, bowever, the FA disciplinary commission took Notley's age into account and treated him kindly, deferring scotence for three mooths while he undergoes rehabilitation and counselling. He will not be allowed to play during that Kevin Keegan is hoping Darren Huckerby does not make Newcastle pay for sending him to Coventry at Highfield Road

Keegan sold Huckerby to the Sky Blues last month in a £1m deal. But the Magpies' manager admits Huckerby has the potential to make him regret letting the 20-year-old striker go. "He has got things going for him and he could rebound oo us like any player you

sell," Keegan said. "But it was my decision to sell him and you've just got to have the conrage to take risks. We've got to live with that risk whenever we play against teams

we've sold players to." Keegan stresses his decision to sell Huckerby was no reflection oo the player's potential but the result of having an embarrassment of riches where for-

wards are concerned. "Wheo you look at what he had in front of him it doesn't mean to say he can't be a very talented player in the future," said Keegan. "He bad Alan Shearer, Les

Ferdinand, Tino Asprilla and

Paul Kitson ahead of him and that's a lot of competition. "He'd been here a year and was definitely coming on but he was just a little bit too far away from the team and I felt the lad should go on and further his ca-

reer somewhere else." Huckerby is hoping Coven-try can give Gordon Strachan his first win nearly six weeks after taking over from Ron Atkinson but admits he would like to see Newcastle lift the title and fears for Keegan's future if the Magpies do not win a trophy

this season. "Kevin is under a lot of pressupporters and he's got to win things this season." Huckerby said. I don't know what will happen if that isn't the situation considering the amount of money spent. The chairman bas got to see some reward for the amount

of investment he has made. "But I do want Newcastle to win the League and the cups if we doo't manage it. It is a fantastic club and it is well documented how much I admire Peter Beardsley,

"It will be a special game for me but I won't be thinking about my time there come kickoff, just getting three points for Coventry. I think we just need a win to kick things into action and hopefully it will be against

Strachan says Huckerby must not turn tonight's clash into a personal mission to prove Keegan wrong. "Dairen's got noth-

ing to prove to Newcastle Uned and Ketin Keegan. He got to prove himself to Carry City, the har and the supporters," he said.

Keegan admits that the must make the must matches against the must make the must matches against the coventry if they are to their title challenge, also knows from ter last Monday's at Nottingham For teams batting for Premeriting survival are tought to bear.

"If we play like we're ble of playing, Coventry is a alistic three-pointer for the having said that, teams bottom, like Coventry, are pable of turning over the

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They've got some very players and I think it a lot of people that they are down at the bottom of the division.

Back injury may end Irani's England tour

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from Bulawayo

The fall-out from England's oneday defeat has started already. With the first Test match against Zimbabwe just a day away, England's minimal squad of 14 may yet be depleted further as Ronnie Irani yesterday went for a scan on an injured back.

With the Test so close, a nick diagnosis was obviously what was needed. Unfortunately, the only scanner up to. the joh of investigating what is wrong with one of England's finest happens to be in Harare. Irani may, in the words of the England coach, David Lloyd, be a "pivotal figure" in England's set-up, hut he is obviously not too precious, after being sent hot-foot to the nation's capital by car, a hot five-hour journey that should have at least stirred

up his symptoms. Irani who played in Sunday's débacle in Bulawayo, has suffered back problems before and be experienced a twinge in England's recent game against Matabeleland, managing just 22 overs in the second innings.

Ouite how a player can be fit enough in bowl nee day, and rushed off on a long trip to hos- turned from captaining a suc-

pital the next almost defies log-ic. But then England abroad always manage to confound even

their most grizzled observers. Irani, who is a spirited cove, may have thought he was doing the right thing by passing him-self fit. If he was a 100 per cent, then fine. If not, it was a reckless act that quite probably cost

England the game. Albeit a game they had no right to win. It was in his first full season with Essex in 1994 that Irani first had problems. A stress fracture -a common injury among pace problem he overcame with rest and a radically remodelled ac-tion: a chest-oo bowling style that relies solely on the arm to has looked fairly lightweight on the slow batting tracks so far ex-

perienced on this tour. Should he have to fly home. England are likely to replace like for like, and call up another all-rounder - a role David Lloyd bas stressed is not just a disguise for a seventh hatsman. However, with Mark Eal-

ham injured, Adam Hollioake nr Craig White are the obvious candidates, though frustrated masochists may plump for the much chastised Chris Lewis. Hollioake, who has just re-

cessful England A side in Australia, would prohably be favourite. Like Irani though, his bowling can be unpenetrative and expensive, and he would leans towards being a seventh batsman should be arrive on the next British Airways flight out

of Gatwick. That leaves White and Lewis. who offer a stronger bowling option in a team that oeeds some thing snappy to complement Darren Gough.

Whatever the outcome, neither Irani nor his replacement are likely to be available in time for Test selection, and with Jack Russell so far surplus to requirements. England will es-sentially be picking their Test team from just 12 fit men. A position that has left them open to further embarrassment before a Test ball has been bowled, should further injury beset them at practice today.

The Yorkshire spinner Zac

Morris helped England Under-19s to a 338-run victory against Labore Cricket Association's youngsters as be took six wickets to help dismiss the hosts for just 99. England declared on their overnight total of 181 for 9 to leave Lahore needing an improbable 438 for victory. They were all out soon after lunch on

Williams' trial date

Motor racing

Frank Williams and five other people are to go on trial in February in Italy charged with manslaughter following the death of Ayrton Senna.

Williams' Italian lawyer, Roberto Causo, said the first hearing would be on 20 Febru-ary in Imola, where Senna, the three-times world champion. was killed when his Williams Formola One car crashed into a wall at the Tamburello curve during the San Marino Grand

Prix on 1 May 1994.

statement expressing their dis appointment that their chiefe ecutive, Frank Williams, Part Head, the technical and Adrian Newey, signer, had been charged.

We do not believe that charges are well founded and tend to do all that is out the to defend our position and test the charges," the ment said. Causo said the Williams trio denied all charges

The Imola race track director, Federico Bendinelli, and a former track official, Giorgio Poggi, face similar charges. which they also deny.

Wembley awaits verdict

Sports politics

Wembley was yesterday preparing to celebrate getting the goahead to be the £180m home of Britain's new National Stadium.
The decision on the location

for the nation's showpiece sportmg venue is due to be announced by the UK Sports Council at a news conference in London this morning and it is certain Wembley has got the nod over Manchester to be turned into a new-look, Olympic-class 80,000-seater stadium.

That will be possible through

around £100m of National sortery funding, with the respecting met from private sector sponsors. The Wembley this which will see the old stadium virtually rebuilt from scratch with only the famous twin low ers remaining, has receive public and enthusiastic backin from the Fontball Association

the British Athletic Federalic and the Rugby Football League There is likely to be some consolation for Manche the form of another Loger grant to pay for a smalles dium to host the 2002 monwealth Games.



